

لکھنؤ میں لکھنؤ

Buying The Times overseas
Australia: \$2.50; Belgium: 2.50; Canada: \$2.50; Denmark: 15.00; France: 15.00; Germany: 15.00; Greece: 15.00; Hong Kong: 15.00; India: 15.00; Italy: 15.00; Japan: 15.00; Korea: 15.00; Malaysia: 15.00; Mexico: 15.00; New Zealand: 15.00; Norway: 15.00; Pakistan: 15.00; Singapore: 15.00; South Africa: 15.00; Spain: 15.00; Sweden: 15.00; Switzerland: 15.00; Taiwan: 15.00; Thailand: 15.00; USA: \$2.50.

THE TIMES



W H SMITH
BICENTENARY
16-page
special report

No 64,237 FRIDAY JANUARY 24 1992 40p

Progressive Democrats set resignation timetable for embattled Irish prime minister

Haughey ready to quit after coalition threat

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES Haughey is expected to resign as Irish prime minister next week after his junior coalition partners threatened to bring down the government if he remained at his post.

Mr Haughey was said to have bowed to the inevitable last night after renewed allegations about his part in a phone-tapping scandal a decade ago proved to be a scrapie. Mr Haughey, 55, has been in office since 1989. The Progressive Democrats, the party he led, are expected to quit after the budget next Wednesday.

The resignation timetable is believed to have been worked out during a day of negotiations between leaders of Fianna Fail and the Progressive Democrats, the six-strong party that has kept Mr Haughey's party in power since 1989. The PDs later issued a statement saying they would withdraw their support unless Fianna Fail took "the necessary step to restore the authority and effectiveness of the government in the immediate aftermath of budget day".

The alternative was an unwanted general election, two years early. "If the necessary



Charles Haughey: resolved to relinquish leadership rather than force a general election two years early

Yarrow gets £400m order for warships

The government announced a £400 million order for three Type 23 frigates for the Royal Navy yesterday.

The contract was awarded to Yarrow Shipbuilders on the Clyde, providing a job boost for Scotland. There had been intense rivalry for the contract between four shipbuilding yards. Page 20

Mutiny fails in Zaire

Troops loyal to President Mobutu of Zaire put down a mutiny yesterday, leaving two dead. Rebel soldiers had seized the radio station in Kinshasa, broadcasting calls for the resignation of President Mobutu and the prime minister. Page 11

Lonrho move

Lonrho, the pan-African conglomerate headed by Tiny Rowland, has cut its dividends from 11p to 5p a share after reporting profits well below what analysts had expected. The move means Mr Rowland will lose about £5.5 million in dividends. Page 21

Briton jailed

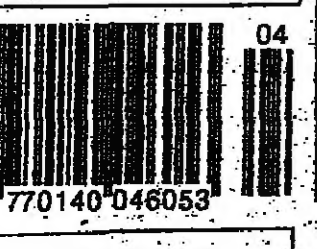
A British oil executive has been jailed for 24 years for bludgeoning his wife to death and dismembering her body in the bedroom of their Spanish villa. Page 3

Botham waits

Ian Botham, who has joined the England cricket team in New Zealand, said that he would not expect to be given a place immediately in a winning side. Page 34, 36

INDEX

Arts	15, 20
Births, marriages, deaths	18, 19
Crosswords	19, 22
Law Report	12
Letters	17, 27, 32
Obituaries	18
Parliament	7
Science	12
Sport	32-36
TV & radio	21
Weather	22



De Lorean suit breaks cabinet secrecy

The government is overruling its 30-year rule in pursuit of damages. Philip Robinson reports

CABINET papers of the past decade relating to discussions on the De Lorean car plant have been released to Arthur Andersen, the accountants, who are defendants in a New York legal action which is being brought by the British government.

The release of the papers of discussions within the Thatcher cabinet has apparently been agreed by John Major, although it breaks the normal conventions of the 30-year rule. Mrs Thatcher is being called to give sworn evidence of her role in the affairs of the De Lorean car company, which collapsed in 1982 after a British government investment of £84 million.

Her evidence will form part of the defence case of Arthur Andersen, accountants to the sports car makers, who are being sued in New York by British for damages which could reach almost \$1 billion. The former prime minister will be among an estimated 30 politicians and government officials to be interviewed either in New York, or on video in London by Arthur Andersen's New York lawyers, Breed, Abbott Morgan. They confirmed last night that Mrs Thatcher will be interviewed as a witness.

It is understood that Mr Major has instructed all his officials to co-operate. Andersen's lawyers want to explore with Mrs Thatcher why doubts over the De Lorean project, raised by the

The challengers, page 2
Diary, page 14

Bush is to offer cuts in multiple warhead arms

BY MARTIN FLETCHER AND MICHAEL EVANS

PRESIDENT Bush is to propose another dramatic reduction in strategic missiles next week, aiming his latest arms control initiative at land-based systems with multiple warheads. The proposals will be made during his State of the Union speech to Congress next Tuesday.

Mr Bush, who announced unilateral nuclear weapons cuts in September, is also considering for the first time reductions in America's submarine-launched ballistic missiles, the strongest of the US triad of nuclear systems.

The latest nuclear arms cutting package, which some experts predict could include another 20 per cent reduction in strategic weapons, will be discussed with Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, when he visits New York for his first summit meeting with Mr Bush at the end of next week.

Last month a US military advisory group recommended that America could safely cut its inventory of strategic warheads to around 5,000, with greater emphasis on submarine-launched systems. A reduction to this level is

unlikely to affect Britain's plans to purchase Trident D5 missiles from the US. An arsenal of 5,000 warheads would still be more than the total number of warheads held by Britain, France and China put together.

Any suggestion from Mr Bush, however, that submarine-launched missiles should have fewer warheads could force the British to review its plans to arm each Trident missile with up to eight warheads.

Last month's US report, prepared by the joint strategic target planning staff advisory group for General Lee Butler, commander-in-chief of US strategic forces and director of nuclear targeting, suggested that submarine-launched missiles should carry no more than six warheads.

The safety of former Soviet nuclear weapons has become a matter of international concern following the break-up of the Soviet Union, despite firm agreements between the four "nuclear" members of the 11-republic Commonwealth on a single strategic command and control system for

nuclear weapons. Of the four, only Kazakhstan is apparently undecided about whether to opt for nuclear or non-nuclear status in future.

● Washington: James Baker, the American Secretary of State, said the US would provide Air Force planes to fly 54 shipments of emergency medicine and food to the former Soviet republics. He said the first CS transports would leave Frankfurt on February 10. (AP)

Sevastopol siege, page 9
Anatole Kaletsky, page 14

£8m home loan rescue

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE first mortgage rescue scheme is expected to cost £8 million and save 100 homes, the Nationwide Building Society announced yesterday. It is part of a wider plan to keep 3,000 borrowers in serious arrears in their homes, to which Britain's second largest society has committed £150 million.

Three London housing associations, the London and Quadrant Housing Trust, the Notting Hill Housing Trust and the Newham Housing Trust, are working with the Nationwide on the first scheme, converting mortgages into rents. The associations are expected to buy the first homes within a month.

Unlike mortgages, borrowers can get out of the scheme. Ms Humphreys said: "We hope everyone will join in for the anthem, though we might get out of beat. Rugby and music are very important to the people of Wales and I hope my contribution will help the team to victory."

Ms Humphreys said the appearance will take her a long way from her beginnings with the Welsh National Opera company where she has been more used to performing on a grander stage to an audience which is not expected to sing for its supper. One problem is that with the language in decline, fewer people know the words. Even Tony Copsey, the Welsh rock who has "Made in England" tattooed on his buttock, had to learn the words phonetically. Well, he was born in Essex.

Ms Humphreys said the appearance will take her a long way from her beginnings with the Welsh National Opera company where she has been more used to performing on a grander stage to an audience which is not expected to sing for its supper. One problem is that with the language in decline, fewer people know the words. Even Tony Copsey, the Welsh rock who has "Made in England" tattooed on his buttock, had to learn the words phonetically. Well, he was born in Essex.

Ms Humphreys said the appearance will take her a long way from her beginnings with the Welsh National Opera company where she has been more used to performing on a grander stage to an audience which is not expected to sing for its supper. One problem is that with the language in decline, fewer people know the words. Even Tony Copsey, the Welsh rock who has "Made in England" tattooed on his buttock, had to learn the words phonetically. Well, he was born in Essex.

Ms Humphreys said the appearance will take her a long way from her beginnings with the Welsh National Opera company where she has been more used to performing on a grander stage to an audience which is not expected to sing for its supper. One problem is that with the language in decline, fewer people know the words. Even Tony Copsey, the Welsh rock who has "Made in England" tattooed on his buttock, had to learn the words phonetically. Well, he was born in Essex.

Ms Humphreys said the appearance will take her a long way from her beginnings with the Welsh National Opera company where she has been more used to performing on a grander stage to an audience which is not expected to sing for its supper. One problem is that with the language in decline, fewer people know the words. Even Tony Copsey, the Welsh rock who has "Made in England" tattooed on his buttock, had to learn the words phonetically. Well, he was born in Essex.

Ms Humphreys said the appearance will take her a long way from her beginnings with the Welsh National Opera company where she has been more used to performing on a grander stage to an audience which is not expected to sing for its supper. One problem is that with the language in decline, fewer people know the words. Even Tony Copsey, the Welsh rock who has "Made in England" tattooed on his buttock, had to learn the words phonetically. Well, he was born in Essex.

Ms Humphreys said the appearance will take her a long way from her beginnings with the Welsh National Opera company where she has been more used to performing on a grander stage to an audience which is not expected to sing for its supper. One problem is that with the language in decline, fewer people know the words. Even Tony Copsey, the Welsh rock who has "Made in England" tattooed on his buttock, had to learn the words phonetically. Well, he was born in Essex.

Britain faces new battle over EC bill

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE government appears to be heading for a bruising row with Brussels over the size of Britain's payments to the European Community budget. That would reopen a struggle between Margaret Thatcher and her European partners that disrupted the EC in the 1980s.

A senior official of the EC Commission preparing the Community's next five-year budget hinted yesterday that as EC spending grows, richer states may want to renegotiate the deal by which Britain receives a rebate of about £2 billion a year on its contributions to Brussels. The official suggested that since stronger economies such as those of Germany, France, Denmark and The Netherlands would face much larger bills for expanded EC activities agreed by the Maastricht summit meet-

ing last month, those governments may press to reduce Britain's budget privileges. Britain is the only EC state enjoying a rebate paid by other EC governments, under rules agreed in 1983 after months of wrangling. Mrs Thatcher infuriated her fellow heads of government by regularly demanding the return of "my money", and a good deal of blood was spilt on the carpets of Brussels. John Major can probably resist pressures to unpick the agreement, but he may have to fight: he made enemies by winning last-minute concessions at Maastricht.

A spokesman for the EC's budget commissioner, Henning Christopherson, confirmed that "the general question of contributions could be reopened". A British official

Continued on page 20, col 1

The challengers, page 2
Diary, page 14

The challengers, page 2
Diary, page 14

The challengers, page 2
Diary, page 14

The challengers, page 2
Diary, page 14

The challengers, page 2
Diary, page 14

Opera singer gives lessons to Welsh rugby fans

BY TIM JONES

TIME was when the Welsh rugby team walked on water and the rendering by the fans of the anthem *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau* (*Land of My Fathers*) sent shudders down the spine of any team unfortunate enough to face the red dragons in the national stadium at Cardiff.

The massed choir singing the old song, which alludes to bards, blood and heroes, was deemed so intimidating that on their last outing to Cardiff the England team manager arranged for the anthem to be played on the team coach as it crossed the border to lessen the psychological shock of the real thing.

Since then, the fortunes of the team have declined and the dismal results appear to have affected the vocal cords of the supporters. To combat this mass laryngitis, the Welsh Rugby Union has called upon Beverley Humphreys, a professional opera singer, to raise the standard of the singing. Before the next game at the stadium, against France tomorrow week, Ms Humphreys, a soprano, will stand in the middle of the pitch to lead the fans in the old war cry.

Ms Humphreys said the appearance will take her a long way from her beginnings with the Welsh National Opera company where she has been more used to performing on a grander stage to an audience which is not expected to sing for its supper. One problem is that with the language in decline, fewer people know the words. Even Tony Copsey, the Welsh rock who has "Made in England" tattooed on his buttock, had to learn the words phonetically. Well, he was born in Essex.

Ms Humphreys said: "We hope everyone will join in for the anthem, though we might get out of beat. Rugby and music are very important to the people of Wales and I hope my contribution will help the team to victory."

Ms Humphreys said the appearance will take her a long way from her beginnings with the Welsh National Opera company where she has been more used to performing on a grander stage to an audience which is not expected to sing for its supper. One problem is that with the language in decline, fewer people know the words. Even Tony Copsey, the Welsh rock who has "Made in England" tattooed on his buttock, had to learn the words phonetically. Well, he was born in Essex.

Ms Humphreys said the appearance will take her a long way from her beginnings with the Welsh National Opera company where she has been more used to performing on a grander stage to an audience which is not expected to sing for its supper. One problem is that with the language in decline, fewer people know the words. Even Tony Copsey, the Welsh rock who has "Made in England" tattooed on his buttock, had to learn the words phonetically. Well, he was born in Essex.

Ms Humphreys said the appearance will take her a long way from her beginnings with the Welsh National Opera company where she has been more used to performing on a grander stage to an audience which is not expected to sing for its supper. One problem is that with the language in decline, fewer people know the words. Even Tony Copsey, the Welsh rock who has "Made in England" tattooed on his buttock, had to learn the words phonetically. Well, he was born in Essex.

NEXT WEEK
THE TIMES
CHANGES SHAPE
LIFE & TIMES

A new colour section, Life & Times, will be published daily with The Times from Monday. Life & Times will expand the paper's coverage of arts, entertainment and books as well as topical features. It will also report weekly on education, health, science, law, media, property and motoring.

TOMORROW'S TIMES

SPLIT TIP



"If you take marriage seriously you have to be divorced." Fay Weldon talks to Valerie Grove in the Saturday Review

PARK METER



Moves to change the royal parks have already met fierce resistance. Weekend Times sniffs the air

PROPERTY

CNT

CHOICE PROPERTY!

For the best selection of industrial and commercial property and land under one roof, there's only one place to go. The Commission for the New Towns is the One-stop Property Shop with £2 billion worth of property assets for sale or lease in 18 desirable New Town locations throughout England. If you are an investor, developer or industrial or commercial business, then contact the specialists now. Simply complete the coupon and return it to: Commission for the New Towns, PO Box 176, London SW15 1BU, or dial 100 and ask for Freephone CNT Property Centre.

Which location(s) are you interested in?
Basildon, Bracknell, Central Lancashire, Corby, Crawley, Harlow, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Northampton, Peterborough, Redditch, Runcorn, Skelmersdale, Stevenage, Telford, Warrington, Washington, Welwyn Garden City (Circle your choices please).

What type of property are you interested in?
☐ Industrial/commercial sites ☐ Industrial premises ☐ Office ☐ Residential ☐ Investment properties

Sq. ft./acres required _____

When are you considering moving or investing?
☐ Within 6 months ☐ 6 to 12 months or specify _____

Name _____
Occupation _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

Dial 100 and ask for Freephone CNT Property Centre

Haughey's mantle could pass to the unwilling or unready

BERTIE Ahern, finance minister, has had a glittering career and may well, albeit unwillingly, accept the leadership of his party this year.

Mr Ahern, aged 40, from a working class Dublin background, has already held two big cabinet posts, labour and finance, but has consistently said that he does not wish to take the top job for some years yet. He is an accountant and industrial relations expert who enjoys great popularity with the all important grassroots of Fianna Fáil, among whom his personable and self-effacing style has made him many friends.

He was first elected to the Dáil in 1977 and was in the whips office before becoming party spokesman on youth and then Chief Whip. He took the labour post in 1987, where he established a formidable reputation for ending public sector strikes. He was one of two ministers chosen by Mr Haughey to conduct delicate negotiations with the Progressive Democrats when Fianna Fáil entered its first coalition in 1989.

Mr Ahern is on the liberal wing of the party and Fianna Fáil under his leadership would sit more easily in coalition with either the Labour party or the PDs than under Mr Haughey or the other main candidates. Mr Ahern

Edward Gorman profiles the four most likely candidates to take on the leadership of the party should Charles Haughey resign next week

has so far stood resolutely by Mr Haughey and it was his decision to back him last autumn that was instrumental in ensuring that Albert Reynolds did not succeed in his attempt to have Mr Haughey removed from the leadership.

An Achilles' heel is his personal life. He left his wife for another woman and he is known to be concerned that the conservative electorate might balk at the idea of a separated man as their prime minister.

Mrs O'Rourke, aged 54, currently minister for health, would be the first woman leader of Fianna Fáil and the first woman Taoiseach if she succeeds Mr Haughey. For that reason alone, some in the party would find it difficult to accept her.

Mrs O'Rourke, from Athlone, in the Irish midlands, comes with a purebred Fianna Fáil pedigree. Her father was a Dáil deputy for the party and her elder



Party favourites: the likely successors, from left to right, Albert Reynolds, Ray MacSharry, Bertie Ahern and Mary O'Rourke

brother, Brian Lenihan, has been one of its leading figures for 30 years. His dismissal by Mr Haughey in December 1990, over allegations that he lied on television during his campaign for president, brought out fierce family loyalty in Mrs O'Rourke and strained her relationship with Mr Haughey.

Mrs O'Rourke began her career as a secondary school teacher before moving into politics in 1981, when she was elected to the senate. She won her first Dáil seat a year later.

She became education minister in 1987, a position she retained until the autumn

reshuffle, when she moved to health. She was regarded as particularly effective at education, where she published a far-reaching Green Paper and launched an Aids education programme.

Mrs O'Rourke is believed not to be opposed to divorce or more freely available contraception and regards herself as a liberal Roman Catholic. She is ambitious, forceful and a candidate around whom much of the party could unite.

Her main weakness is her lack of experience, especially on the economy and foreign affairs, but she makes no secret of her ambition to lead

her country and believes she is capable of it.

Ray MacSharry, EC commissioner for agricultural development since 1989, is regarded as the man Mr Haughey would most like to succeed him, but he may not have the chance.

Mr MacSharry was one of the so-called gang of five who nominated Mr Haughey to the Fianna Fáil leadership in 1979, and has been loyal ever since. Mr Haughey is believed to have wanted to lead his party into another general election, allowing Mr MacSharry to return from Europe in triumph, regain his seat in the Dáil and take

over the leadership. A sudden resignation by the incumbent thus appears to rule him out, since he is not due to return to Dublin until December.

Mr MacSharry, aged 53, a teetotaler who is married with six children, is regarded as an old-style, generally conservative Fianna Fáiler. His skill as a negotiator in Europe, where he has handled tough and exhausting negotiations on the Common Agricultural Policy and trade reform, have enhanced his profile at home. He has benefited from being away during the latest scandals and leadership disputes.

He is a farmer and former

road haulier from Sligo in the North-West, and was elected to the Dáil in 1969. He was deputy prime minister and finance minister in Mr Haughey's 1982 government and finance minister again between 1987 and 1988. He is a self-made man who is regarded as a somewhat cold individual lacking in charisma, but his experience and ability are not in doubt.

Albert Reynolds, former finance minister, aged 56, is the only one of the contenders to have openly attempted to remove Mr Haughey from office, and this may count against him in the long run. Mr Reynolds, from Longford

in the midlands, backed a no-confidence motion in Mr Haughey last November and lost his cabinet job in the process. The move backfired when Haughey loyalists rallied to defeat the motion by 55 votes to 22.

There have also been rumours lately that, either directly or indirectly, Sean Doherty, the former justice minister who is alleging Mr Haughey's direct involvement in the telephone tapping scandal, might be working for Mr Reynolds. If this perception persists, it could damage Mr Reynolds.

Nevertheless, the millionaire pet food entrepreneur and former manager of a string of ballrooms, who is married with two sons and five daughters, must still be the strongest candidate. A pragmatist with a reputation for getting things done, he took his first Dáil seat in 1977 and became posts and telegraphs minister two years later.

Since then he has held the transport, energy, industry and commerce and finance portfolios, making him probably the most experienced candidate, though he has said little on foreign affairs and Northern Ireland.

Ready to quit, page 1
Diary, page 14

Change in poll tax law likely to plug default loopholes

By Douglas Broom, Local Government Correspondent

THE home secretary is expected to announce today that the government will change the law to allow computerised poll tax records to be used as evidence that defaulters have not paid.

Kenneth Baker's announcement was pre-empted yesterday by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, who said he was changing the law to prevent poll tax defaulters escaping prosecution if their debts were more than two years old.

After announcing on television on Wednesday night that legislation was imminent, Mr Heseltine has taken control of measures to prevent the collapse of the community charge system in England and Wales.

More than 10,000 cases against non-payers have come to a halt in the courts after rulings that computer records were not admissible as evidence of non-payment.

All councils use computers to administer the tax and if the rulings are upheld by the High Court, local authority leaders say that the poll tax will become unenforceable.

The delays caused by the rulings have raised the spectre

of thousands of cases being lost because of a rule that councils have only two years to begin court action against defaulters.

Many of the delayed cases relate to poll tax bills issued in April 1990 and risked being struck out under the two-year rule if the issue had not been resolved by the end of March.

Mr Heseltine said he would use his powers to change the rules by issuing regulations within the next few days increasing the time limit to six years, the same period allowed for councils to collect rate arrears. "We are determined that authorities should be able to enforce against all defaulters," he said. "There will be no amnesty for non-payers."

The task for Mr Baker in framing measures to make computer records admissible is more formidable. Government lawyers have said that a simple change in the law to admit computer records as evidence in poll tax cases would risk invalidating seven million liability orders already granted by the courts.

Attempts to overcome the problem by backdating the legislation are fraught with problems because of the rule

that legislation cannot be retrospective.

Technical legal difficulties are not expected to prevent Mr Baker from announcing later today his intention to change the law.

The scale of poll tax collection problems in London was underlined yesterday when the Labour controlled Association of London Authorities published figures showing that one in three Londoners had been summonsed for non-payment.

The association said that 1.8 million summonses had been issued and 1.2 million liability orders obtained by London boroughs since the poll tax was introduced in April 1990.

At a meeting in London the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which represents London and the major cities, called for a government advertising campaign to persuade more people to pay the poll tax.

Rodney Brooke, the association's secretary, warned that non-payment would push up bills by between £20 and £40 a head from April. In some places a surcharge of more than £100 would be added to cover non-collection losses.



Strength from above: Dr David Hope, the Bishop of London, trying out fitness equipment yesterday after opening Cabeline, a £500,000 youth drugs aid project in the East End of London

Protest greets Twyford Down dig

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

PROTESTS from local residents greeted the start of construction work yesterday on the Twyford Down section of the M3 in Hampshire, one of the European Environmental Commissioner, Signor Carlo Ripa di Meana, has asked Britain to halt.

Builders starting up a coope south of Winchester marked the transport department's determination to ignore Signor di Meana's request and the pleas of campaigners against the scheme. It will destroy one of England's most heavily protected landscapes, carving a 400ft gap in the chalk through Twyford Down and creating a high embankment across the Itchen valley.

Signor Ripa di Meana's request for work to stop while the cases were considered was made personally last October to the transport secretary, Malcolm Rifkind.

David Croker, a Tory member of Winchester city council and chairman of the Twyford Down Association, who joined protesters at the site yesterday, said: "The government is giving two fingers to Europe. This case is likely to come before the European court, and the transport department is showing its contempt. Europe is more concerned than our own government about the destruction of Twyford Down and Itchen Valley. People just don't realise just how bad this route is going to be."

Anne Bailey, a Liberal Democrat member of Hampshire county council, said: "Every inch of this route is a disaster."

Major attacks snobbery against vocational study

By Nicholas Wood and Jill Sherman

THE prime minister yesterday highlighted his vision of a classless society by giving personal backing to measures aimed at breaking down barriers between academic and vocational education and by denouncing "old fashioned prejudices and snobberies" against manual work.

John Major threw his weight behind plans to achieve a ten-fold increase in the number of people gaining work-based qualifications and countered Labour attacks on the government's record by maintaining that ministers were creating the most effective and flexible system of vocational education in the world.

His intervention came as Michael Howard, the employment secretary, heightened the electioneering atmosphere by saying that Labour's policies to introduce a minimum wage and a jobs tax would put 2.25 million people out of work and have an "appalling effect" on Britain's economic performance.

Labour derided the figures and said that the Tories were in a shambles over their training programme.

Mr Howard said that Labour's policy for a minimum wage alone would cost two million jobs. When Labour's proposals for a jobs tax and its social action were thrown in the total would rise to 2.25 million, Mr Howard said.

Tony Blair, shadow employment secretary, dismissed Mr Howard's figures and accused the government of doubling unemployment.

"The Conservatives have scored an own goal this morning in trying to claim Labour proposals for investment in training would lose jobs," he said. Labour would "hang round the government's neck from now until polling day" the issue of lengthening dole queues, Mr Blair said.

Recalling his personal involvement in the launch of last summer's white paper *Education and Training for the 21st Century*, Mr Major said the government wanted to give greater priority to the 16-19 age group. It also wanted to sweep aside cultural attitudes relegating those pursuing vocational courses to the status of second class citizens.

Speaking in London to a meeting of the National Council for Vocational Qualifications, Mr Major outlined a four-point strategy for giving practical courses the same status as academic studies and for eroding distinctions between the two. "In this country we have always failed to give status to the practical as compared with the academic, and the professional careers," the prime minister said. "All that is changing. Must change."

Mr Blair countered with new figures showing that two thirds of those on employment training leave their programme without a qualification.

the 21st Century, Mr Major said the government wanted to give greater priority to the 16-19 age group. It also wanted to sweep aside cultural attitudes relegating those pursuing vocational courses to the status of second class citizens.

Speaking in London to a meeting of the National Council for Vocational Qualifications, Mr Major outlined a four-point strategy for giving practical courses the same status as academic studies and for eroding distinctions between the two. "In this country we have always failed to give status to the practical as compared with the academic, and the professional careers," the prime minister said. "All that is changing. Must change."

Mr Blair countered with new figures showing that two thirds of those on employment training leave their programme without a qualification.

Parliament, page 6

New teams to check NHS trusts

By Jeremy Laurence, Health Services Correspondent

MONITORING organisations are to be set up by the government to review the activities of self-governing hospitals in a move that could spell the end of the regional health authorities.

Six outposts of the NHS management executive are to be set up in cities including Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, which will run in parallel with regional health authorities. Known as "zonal outposts", they will maintain a direct line of management to the centre, monitoring the financial performance of the hospitals trusts.

The outposts are seen as necessary to improve monitoring of the self-governing hospitals as their numbers increase. A further 100 hospitals are to be granted self-governing status next April, pushing the total past 150.

The zonal outposts are being formed as an interim arrangement for 12 months while further thought is given to the long term structure of the NHS. At present, regional health authorities monitor district health authorities and self-governing trusts and act as regulators of the NHS market.

The establishment of a second "regulator" will reduce the role of the RHAs in relation to the trusts, allowing them to focus on purchasing services and formulating a local health strategy.

Labour considers complaint to BBC

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

THE Labour party is considering a formal complaint to the BBC about its handling of the sensitive pre-election battle over its taxation proposals.

During a discussion on Wednesday night about general election preparations, the shadow cabinet was reported to have taken the unanimous view that the corporation's reporting of the issue had fallen below its usual standards.

David Hill, Labour's communications director, is preparing a detailed report on the way the party's proposals to introduce a new 50p top rate of tax and lift the ceiling on national insurance contributions has been portrayed. It is likely to result in an approach to Sir Michael Checkland, the director-general, from senior party figures including John Cunningham, the campaigns chief, and Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary.

The main complaint levelled by Labour frontbenchers is that the BBC has been obsessed with the effects of Labour's changes on higher earners but has failed to focus sufficiently on the benefits which they will pay for: increased pensions and child benefit. There was also anger that the *Today* programme had wrongly reported the Institute of Fiscal Studies last Friday as suggesting that Labour's plans would hit one in three voters. The error was repeated in full prominence in London's *Evening Standard*.

Party sources made clear that they were reluctant to be seen to be "whingeing" about the BBC. Because the issue is considered so vital and seems certain to dominate the campaign proper, sources said the party had a duty to speak out if it felt "the normal standard of objectivity" was not being met.

The tax plans themselves provoked a dispute between the Conservatives and the *Daily Mirror*. Fleet Street's most fervently pro-Labour newspaper refused to accept a Tory party advertisement attacking the plans.

Richard Stott, the paper's editor, turned down Central Office's "bombshell" depiction of Labour's tax ambitions because it was based on a "lie".

Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, suggested that the paper was being hypocritical given its customary regard for accuracy.

Central Office's £100,000 media blitz on Labour's alleged hidden agenda of a 10p in the pound basic rate income tax hike to pay for its £37 billion spending programme appeared in *The Times* and five tabloids — *Today*, *The Sun*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Daily Express* and *The Star*.

● The case for an independent Scotland was given valuable support yesterday when the Scottish edition of *The Sun* newspaper announced its support for the cause of independence as a matter of editorial policy.

Coroner's officer jailed for theft

A coroner's officer was jailed for four months yesterday for stealing stamps from the home of a dead woman (Peter Victor writes).

However, Southwark crown court found Roy Bellamy, coroner's officer for St Pancras, north London, not guilty of taking more than £400 from the house, and of stealing a signed copy of a book from the home of Kenneth Williams, the actor.

Anthony Leonard, for the prosecution, said that Bellamy, of Chalk Farm, north-west London, went to the home of Anne Domelow, aged 80, in Hampstead in August 1990 to seek clues to her next of kin and took stamps.

Bellamy denied taking the stamps and money and said that he had replaced Mr Williams's book at the actor's home in Regent's Park. However, police found identical stamps at Bellamy's home.

Boy died after eating contest

A boy aged six died after choking during a school doughnut-eating contest. Graham Merritt collapsed when he and a friend raced to see who could eat one of the doughnuts the faster.

He was given first aid and taken from Wickbourne County Infants' school at Littlehampton, West Sussex, to Worthing Hospital. He was transferred to the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital in Brighton, where he was put on a life support machine which doctors switched off on Wednesday. A post mortem examination will be held.

Tottenham riot police bailed

Detective Chief Superintendent Graham Melvin, who led the investigation into the murder of Police Constable Keith Blakelock in the 1985 Tottenham riot, was given unconditional bail yesterday on charges of perjury and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

Det Chief Supt Melvin, aged 50, appeared in Bow Street magistrates' court, London, with retired Detective Inspector Maxwell Dingle, who is charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. He was also bailed.

In Vogue

Alexandra Shulman is to be the new editor of *Vogue*. Conde Nast's monthly fashion magazine, Ms Shulman, aged 34, moves from the men's magazine *GQ* to take over from Elizabeth Tilberis, who has gone to America to edit *Harper's Bazaar*. Anna Harvey, now deputy editor of *Tatler*, will be her deputy. Michael VerMeulen will move up from deputy editor to run *GQ*.

Explorer quits

The explorer John Blashford-Snell is standing down as leader of Operation Raleigh, the organisation he founded to send young people on overseas adventures. Colonel Blashford-Snell, aged 55, has also left the Royal Engineers after 37 years.

unready

hold in life

Dogged detective turned Spanish missing person case into 24-year sentence for murder

Husband jailed for bludgeoning wife

By Kerry Gill

THE suspicions and persistence of a Scottish detective led yesterday to a British, oil executive being jailed for 24 years for bludgeoning his wife to death and dismembering her body in the bedroom of their Spanish villa.

Stuart Hutchinson, aged 47, was sentenced at Malaga's palace of justice after a two-day trial during which he denied the murder, claiming that his wife Alice had walked out of their home and disappeared.

Mrs Hutchinson, aged 38, was an amateur opera singer and the couple's £188,000 villa near Marbella was called Bel Canto, "beautiful song". It was there that Hutchinson, a tax exile, drained her body of blood and cut it up with a tenon saw, burning some remains and scattering others on dumps and building sites.

The case would have remained a missing person file but for the determination of Detective Superintendent Alex Den of Aberdeen police, and his knowledge of an obscure clause in Scottish criminal legislation which gave him the basis for conducting an investigation abroad.

Mrs Hutchinson's father, Jim Davidson, could not believe that his daughter would vanish without good reason. He told a policeman in his home district of Aberdeen that she was missing. Grampian police, through Interpol, asked the Spanish authorities to open an investigation.

There was no reply and the matter was routinely passed to the CID, where it came to the notice of Det Supt Den, then an inspector.

He knew that he had jurisdiction to investigate a suspected killing of a person by a British national abroad, under Section 6 (1) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act of 1975. That effectively allows for a British subject, once extradited, to be punished in a Scottish court for culpable homicide or murder committed abroad.

Det Supt Den discovered that Mr and Mrs Hutchinson could be an explosive couple. Hutchinson was known once to have assaulted his wife, a fact which could enable the officer to establish the malice that would support suspicion of culpable homicide or murder.

He also learnt that Hutchinson had given conflicting stories about his wife's disappearance in February 1989.

He told her cousin, Audrey Sutherland, that Mrs Hutchinson, a soprano, had gone to the Seville opera house. Later he said that she might have gone to an audition at Covent Garden.

There were other suspicious circumstances. Why had Mrs Hutchinson not contacted her two sons by a previous marriage, spoken to her parents, or sent mother's day flowers as usual? Mrs Hutchinson's dog was left at the villa, and so was her jewellery, passport and clothing, which were found by neighbours.

The Crown Office refused to grant extradition papers, but Det Supt Den and Detective Sergeant Gordon Thomson flew to Spain to exchange information. They met inspectors Alfredo Tarjuelo and Jesus Pena, and cemented a relationship with a bottle of Scotch whisky. The Spanish police, too, became convinced that Mrs Hutchinson had been murdered.

Throughout a police interview Hutchinson, from Hardpouffe, Cleveland, and who ran a removal business in Spain, remained calm. An interview with a family maid provided a breakthrough: she had found traces of blood in the couple's bedroom.

Spanish police drove to Bel Canto in the early hours and woke Hutchinson as he lay in bed with a Dutch model.

Although the bedroom had been freshly painted there were still signs of blood extending six feet up the walls. Eventually Hutchinson confessed to a row with his wife which ended in his battering her to death with a baton kept for burglars. He described how he dragged an unused door into the bedroom on which he lay his wife's bloody body. As his daughter by his first marriage, then aged 14, slept in another room, he spent the night cutting up the body. He poured the blood into a drain beneath the bedroom wash-basin.

Exhausted, Hutchinson snatched a few hours' sleep before taking a shower and driving his daughter, Kadinka, to school. On his return, he burnt pieces of his wife's body in old paint tins and a fire grate before dumping other remains. The court also sentenced Hutchinson to a further three months and a fine of £500 for dismembering the body.

He had been arrested two months after his wife vanished. He repeated his confession to a Spanish examining judge and agreed to re-enact the murder but later retracted the confession.

Mr Davidson said last night: "We have been through three years of hell but finally justice has been done." He and his wife were visited by Det Supt Den, who said: "We are very pleased at the outcome."



Stuart and Alice Hutchinson on their wedding day: he dismembered her body at their villa

He also learnt that Hutchinson had given conflicting stories about his wife's disappearance in February 1989.

He told her cousin, Audrey Sutherland, that Mrs Hutchinson, a soprano, had gone to the Seville opera house. Later he said that she might have gone to an audition at Covent Garden.

There were other suspicious circumstances. Why had Mrs Hutchinson not contacted her two sons by a previous marriage, spoken to her parents, or sent mother's day flowers as usual? Mrs Hutchinson's dog was left at the villa, and so was her jewellery, passport and clothing, which were found by neighbours.

The Crown Office refused to grant extradition papers, but Det Supt Den and Detective Sergeant Gordon Thomson flew to Spain to exchange information.

Exhausted, Hutchinson snatched a few hours' sleep before taking a shower and driving his daughter, Kadinka, to school. On his return, he burnt pieces of his wife's body in old paint tins and a fire grate before dumping other remains.

The court also sentenced Hutchinson to a further three months and a fine of £500 for dismembering the body.

He had been arrested two months after his wife vanished. He repeated his confession to a Spanish examining judge and agreed to re-enact the murder but later retracted the confession.

Mr Davidson said last night: "We have been through three years of hell but finally justice has been done." He and his wife were visited by Det Supt Den, who said: "We are very pleased at the outcome."

Midlands police call new enquiry

By Craig Seton

A NEW investigation is being carried out into allegations of criminal conduct involving detectives from the West Midlands force, it was disclosed yesterday.

Detective Chief Superintendent David Baker, of Leicestershire, has been called in by the West Midlands force to investigate the allegations, which concern officers from D division, based in north Birmingham. His enquiry is being supervised by the Police Complaints Authority.

The allegations follow an unconnected undercover surveillance operation by West Midlands police that allegedly revealed a suspicious relationship between two detectives and a suspected criminal. They are not connected to the two-year investigation by West Yorkshire police into the former West Midlands serious crime squad, which was disbanded in August 1989 amid claims that officers had fabricated confessions.

Superintendent Ray Starkey, of West Midlands, confirmed yesterday that a new investigation was under way, but no other details were given and it has not been disclosed whether any detectives have been suspended. It was understood yesterday that the enquiry could involve allegations against more than two officers.

Karamjit Singh, an officer with the complaints authority, is supervising the investigation and is expected to meet Det Chief Supt Baker in Birmingham today to discuss the scope of the enquiry. It comes less than three months after the PCA released a critical report on the investigation into the serious crime squad, which concluded that the unit had not been subject to proper management control.

Mr Justice Kennedy ruled in the High Court yesterday that a preliminary report on the serious crime squad by Donald Shaw, an assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, was confidential and must not be made public. The West Midlands police authority and Ronald Hadfield, chief constable, were granted an injunction preventing Walsall borough council from publishing the document and three others.

Fist fight gave man Aids virus

By Thomson Prentice
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FIGHT at a wedding reception resulted in one man infecting another with the Aids virus, according to doctors reporting in *The Lancet* today. The incident shows that the virus can be transmitted by blood contact during physical violence.

Both men — an intruder and an invited guest — bled profusely from face injuries sustained in the "vigorous fist fight", and the guest was admitted to hospital ten days later with nausea, diarrhoea and a rash. He was treated for a viral infection, and discharged two weeks later.

Doctors learnt that the intruder was HIV-positive. He has since died. Last November, more than two years after the fight, the guest was found also to have HIV when he went to give blood. He had been married for 17 years and there was no evidence that he might have become infected through homosexual contact, drug abuse or contact with prostitutes.

Peter Morgan-Capner, consultant virologist at the Royal Preston hospital, Lancashire, and doctors from Guy's hospital, London, conclude that the man was infected during the fight. "This is the only case we know of in Britain in which HIV was transmitted in this way," Dr Morgan-Capner said yesterday. "It clearly demonstrates that the virus can be contracted during a fight in which there is bloodshed. Although this must be extraordinarily rare, the general spread of infection suggests it will occur more often in the future."

He added that the case showed that the blood transfusion service's screening system was effective. Apart from heterosexual intercourse, blood-to-blood transmission is the most important means of HIV spread worldwide.

Study shows cancer link among nuclear workers

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

OCCUPATIONAL exposure to radiation can cause cancer, the largest ever study of nuclear workers has shown. A clear link has been established between deaths from leukaemia and low doses of radiation, with risks rising steadily as dose increases.

The study, by the National Radiological Protection Board, has also shown a link between radiation dose and the death rate from all cancers, although evidence is far less clear than for leukaemia. The board's figures suggest that the limits on radiation

exposure set by the International Commission on Radiological Protection are too high by a factor of about two. Dr Roger Clarke, director of the NRPB, said yesterday that it was too soon to draw this conclusion, because the data were not yet comprehensive enough to be certain of the result. The range of potential error was too wide to conclude that the commission was wrong, he said.

Critics of the nuclear industry have seized on the figures. Friends of the Earth accused the NRPB of "gambling with

radiation workers' lives" and said that it had chosen to give the nuclear industry the benefit of the doubt. Greenpeace called for the closure of the nuclear industry.

The study, published today in the *British Medical Journal*, is based on the National Registry for Radiation Workers, established by the NRPB in 1976. The registry records the exposure of workers from British Nuclear Fuels, the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston, the Ministry of Defence, Nuclear Electric and the Atomic Energy Authority, and traces causes of death from sources including the NHS central register.

This is the first analysis made using the register and covers 95,000 individuals of whom 6,660 had died by the end of the study period. In general, the study finds that death rates among radiation workers are lower than for the population as a whole. This was not unexpected, because to get a job workers have to attain a certain standard of health.

To eliminate that effect, the study examined trends in cancer deaths within the sample, comparing them with radiation exposure. A statistically significant association was found between death rates from all leukaemias (excluding chronic lymphatic leukaemia) and radiation dose, showing that the odds against this association arising by chance were greater than 20 to one.

Maryn Day, a solicitor acting for various radiation workers from Sellafield and their children who are seeking compensation from British Nuclear Fuels, said: "How many workers and their children have to die before the industry wakes up to the fact that radiation is far more dangerous than they have ever been prepared to accept?"

Forgotten play is given an encore

By Simon Tait
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A FORGOTTEN play by a leading Shakespearean actor has been rediscovered and will be given its first performance for more than 300 years.

A *Woman is a Weathercock* is one of two plays known to have been written by Nathan Field, but it has not been performed since 1667. The play is to be performed next month at the Pentameters Theatre in Hampstead. Field, born in 1587, was the son of a parson and ran away — or may have been kidnapped — to be an actor when he was 13. He became one of the leading portrayers of female roles in an age when there were no actresses and is reputed to have played Desdemona at the Globe Theatre, London. He is named as a principal actor in the first folio of Shakespeare's works of 1623.

His writing has been ignored, however, and in the early 19th century *A Woman is a Weathercock* was attributed to Sheridan. It is a rollicking comedy whose theme is how affections change, written when Field was 22 and performed before James I in the winter of 1609-10.

It will be directed by Graham Watts, who was researching the life of Field at Dulwich College last year when Jan Piggott, the college archivist, showed him a copy of the play which was in a bundle of Victorian books bought from a dealer.



Field: leading portrayer of women's roles

Arts, page 12

Birdspotter raised IRA alert

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

A NATURALIST yesterday described how he came across Nesson Quinn, one of the IRA suspects who escaped from Brixton prison last year, posing as a birdwatcher close to a Royal Marine training ground in Devon a few months before his arrest.

Trevor Barden told a jury at the Central Criminal Court that he saw Quinn and a second Irishman three times

on Bickton Common, Devon, in June 1990. His suspicions grew as the men were either in the wrong place to spot birds or without their equipment. He said that he saw the men focusing their binoculars on the Royal Marine training ground near by. He raised the alarm and later identified Quinn after his arrest in October 1990.

Mr Bartlett was giving evidence on the second day of the trial of William McKane, aged 24, from northwest London, who is accused on three counts, with Quinn and Pearce McAuley, the second escapee from Brixton. Mr McKane denies conspiracy to murder Sir Charles Tidbury and others; conspiracy to cause explosions and possession of firearms.

The trial continues today.

Dixons

SAVE £20 PLUS 0% INTEREST ON SATELLITE TV

WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TO BOTH MOVIE CHANNELS FOR 12 MONTHS*

AMSTRAD 60cm SATELLITE DISH

- Remote control stereo receiver
- Built-in decoder
- 60cm mesh dish offers the latest satellite viewing in England and Wales
- Superb stereo sound when played through a stereo TV or Hi-Fi

Model: SRD480
Dixons Usual Selling Price £199.99*

Dixons Deal £179.99*

when you subscribe to both Movie Channels
20% DEPOSIT & 6 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £24

AMSTRAD 80cm SATELLITE DISH

- 80cm satellite dish for Scotland and Ireland
- Remote control receiver
- Built-in decoder
- Model: SRD480
- Dixons Usual Selling Price £229.99*

Dixons Deal £209.99*

when you subscribe to both Movie Channels
20% DEPOSIT & 6 DIRECT DEBIT MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF £28

When a woman's age is no secret

By John Young

A FORMER policewoman found herself in trouble with the law yesterday for refusing to disclose her age to a male officer 21 years her junior.

Clare Harrison, who served for five years with the Durham force in the 1950s, was stopped by PC Karl Horowitz in Stockton-on-Tees on October 10 for not wearing a seat belt while driving her car.

Yesterday she told Teesside magistrates' court that she was 55 but that she had refused to disclose the fact to PC Horowitz.

"I said that I was in the interesting age of some-



Harrison: "Between 25 and death"

where between 25 and death," she said. "I found his manner extremely of-

fensive and high-handed. I had committed a motoring offence and not a felony. I cannot believe that women are being raped in the streets and I am being brought here for an offence of refusing to give my date of birth."

Peter Kilgour, for the prosecution, said that Mrs Harrison was not carrying a driving licence and that PC Horowitz had wanted to know her date of birth to check if she was entitled to drive. She had replied: "It must be the way they train you these days."

Mrs Harrison, of Whitton, Stockton, who owns four fashion and video shops, was stopped after

taking one of her 14 cats to a veterinary surgery.

She said yesterday: "I have always defended the police to the hilt, because they have an extremely difficult job to do. But I don't think that this sort of thing fosters good relations with the public."

After pleading guilty to failing to state her date of birth to a police officer under section 164 of the Road Traffic Act, Mrs Harrison was fined £5 with £12 costs.

Mrs Harrison suffered another blow yesterday. When she left the court she found a £25 fixed penalty ticket on her car for illegal parking.

DON'T MISS BLOCKBUSTER FILMS

- Back To The Future III
- Total Recall
- Die Hard 2
- Cry Baby
- Internal Affairs
- Dick Tracy
- Stanley & Iris
- Blaze

1992 CRICKET WORLD CUP

Live and exclusive on SKY SPORT in February and March. 21 matches shown live, with a total of over 300 hours of coverage. PLUS FA Cup 5th round live in February.



Dixons SALE ENDS NEXT WEEK

AROUND 350 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE. TEL: 081-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH

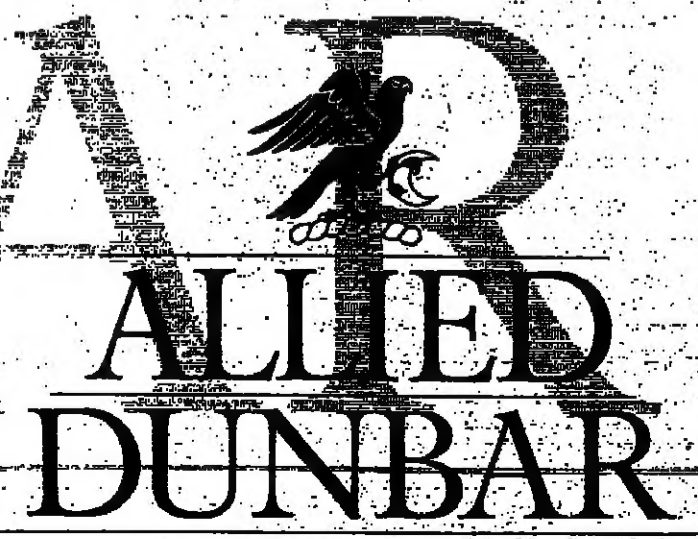
*Savings and 0% interest offer applies only to cash and credit cards. 0% interest by direct debit only and is subject to status. Installation extra (from £89.99). Ask for details. Subscriptions to Sky Movies Plus and The Movie Channel start at £11.99 per month for one channel or £16.99 per month for both channels for 12 months (minimum subscription).

Who says the biggest can't be the best?

LIFE MANAGED FUNDS
40 LARGEST FUNDS WITH A 5 YEAR RECORD

Position	Fund Name	Fund Size (£bn)	Average Return
1	Allied Dunbar	1922.8	25.8
2	Equity & Law	782.2	22.8
3	Marshall Wain	671.8	22.8
4	Standard Life	634.4	22.8
5	Black Horse	588.9	22.8
6	Teachers	588.9	22.8
7	Clarendon	570.2	22.8
8	Acorn	570.2	22.8
9	Royal London	563.8	22.8
10	Sun Life	500.0	22.8
11	London & Lancashire	491.2	22.8
12	London Life	488.4	22.8
13	Albion	488.4	22.8
14	Sun Life of Canada	478.4	22.8
15	Crown	421.2	22.8
16	Albany	420.4	22.8
17	Sun Life Manager	420.4	22.8
18	Pratt	408.2	22.8
19	General Insurance	391.2	22.8
20	TSB	388.4	22.8
21	Scottish Equitable	388.4	22.8
22	1911 Savings	388.4	22.8
23	Confederation Life	315.8	22.8
24	Provident Assurance	315.8	22.8
25	M & G	308.8	22.8
26	Friends Provident	304.8	22.8
27	Prudential	293.8	22.8
28	Scottish Mutual	283.8	22.8
29	Scottish Widows	271.2	22.8
30	Sun Alliance	268.4	22.8
31	Scottish Amicable	234.8	22.8
32	NPI	218.2	22.8
33	Laurentian	199.1	22.8
34	GRE	183.9	22.8
35	Manulife	398.2	22.8
36	Barclays Life	128.4	22.8
37	Eagle Star	392.8	22.8
38	Cornhill	97.8	22.8
39	Prolific	123.5	22.8
40	Commercial Union	118.7	22.8

Allied Dunbar's Life Managed Fund has achieved the best average ranking over the last one, two, three, four and five years.
Proof that the biggest can be the best.
To arrange a meeting with one of our financial advisers, telephone our free 24-hour answerphone service on 0800 010700.



STOP PRESS: ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS - WINNERS OF THE 1991 SUNDAY TIMES 'UNIT TRUST MANAGERS OF THE YEAR UK FUND AWARD'.
THE 40 FUNDS SHOWN ARE THE 40 LARGEST LIFE MANAGED FUNDS THAT HAVE A FIVE YEAR RECORD. THE DATA USED IS FROM THE FINANCIAL TIMES FINSTAT DATA AND IS CALCULATED ON AN OFFER TO BID BASIS AS AT 1 DECEMBER 1991.
PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUARANTEE OF FUTURE PERFORMANCE. ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE PLC IS A MEMBER OF LAUTRO.

Immigration agency found guilty of racial bias

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

AN IMMIGRANT advice agency agreed yesterday to pay £11,000 damages to a senior employee after an industrial tribunal found it guilty of racial discrimination.

The move by the United Kingdom Immigrants Advisory Service came less than 24 hours after the resignation of its director at the end of a stormy resumed annual meeting at which he narrowly lost a vote of confidence.

The tribunal awarded the

damages to Edward Yaansah, a Ghanaian educated at Oxford, after finding that he had not been appraised deputy director of the organisation because of his race. The job went instead to Shamsuddin Choudhury, from Bangladesh.

During a tribunal hearing last year, evidence was presented on behalf of Mr Yaansah, a senior councillor with the advisory service, alleging that procedures were discriminatory and that an interview question to the successful Asian candidate had been planted.

Paul Nicholls, the solicitor for Mr Yaansah, said: "It is deeply regrettable that an organisation that should be providing an example to others should have allowed itself to get into this situation." He urged the service, which receives £1.7 million Home Office funding, to adopt an equal opportunity policy within three months and to review its recruitment and promotion systems.

The government has become so concerned at ethnic infighting on the 13-strong executive that it has called on the advisory service to adopt a new constitution and is reviewing the conditions under which it funds the organisation. Earlier this week, the service was stripped of its responsibility for the legal protection of asylum seekers.

Peter Lloyd, the immigration minister, has told the service to alter its constitution to make it more representative of ethnic minorities, to allow the Home Office representative observer status at executive and annual meetings, to remove from office people with a financial interest in immigration and to prevent executive members from interfering in day to day management of the organisation.

Last night, however, Helen Ellis, one of the organisation's vice-presidents, said that she doubted whether the council would be able to end factional fighting and called on the Home Office to support staff demands for the service to be dissolved and replaced by another organisation.

Michael Pickett, chairman of staff unions at the advisory service, said: "The staff are in despair at all the infighting. It has to stop."

Plea fails over dead parrot

BY BILL FROST

A COUPLE whose parrot died ten days after being bought from a pet shop lost their claim for compensation yesterday in a case reminiscent of a Monty Python sketch.

Mary and John Trebell, of Truro, Cornwall, owners of Joey, the eight-month-old African Grey, told Truro county court: "She must have died during the night. Joey was on her side at the bottom of the cage."

They complained to Graham Marks, the pet shop owner, and asked for their money back. A post mortem examination found that Joey died from a fungal disease.

Mr Marks said: "I know Joey was healthy when she left us, but it is possible the bird could have died from shock."

Joey might have been frightened by a noise, or car headlights flashing through the window. African Greys are susceptible to shock.

After a two-hour hearing in chambers, the judge ruled against the claim for £153 compensation.

After the hearing, Mr Marks said that he had suggested to the couple that they select another parrot at cost price, £100, but they declined.



Race tracks: Mike Bradbury, a competitor in this winter's British husky team races, training in the Black Mountains of Wales. Although practising in snow gives husky racing the authentic touch, the competition is usually held on hard ground with lightweight wheeled rigs (Alix Ramsay writes).

This week the six-dog race, held in Loch Ard forest in Scotland's Central region, was won by John Coyle

of Scotland. Eighty-five mushers and their huskies competed over a flat, eight-mile course, with some teams reaching 25mph. The fourth race in the series will be held in Kielder forest, Northumberland, on February 15.

Britain has become one of the leading countries in racing on dry ground and specialises in sprint races. With about 150 teams in competition, the sport is growing

fast here, especially in Scotland, where the weather and terrain are more suited to a sport normally associated with Alaska and Canada. The Siberian huskies were originally bred for speed, the theory being that a large team of light dogs would not fall through the pack ice as a small group of heavy dogs would.

"Musher" is now a misnomer. Nobody yells "Mush!" at their dogs any more, a word which was probably a

corruption of *marchez*, the command which French prospectors gave their dogs in the days of the gold rush.

The organiser of the Loch Ard race was Ross Goldie. He first bought a husky seven years ago and now, with ten dogs, he and his wife give lectures on working and racing teams.

"The appeal of the sport is the animals themselves," he said. "The racing is an additional attraction."

Farms seek £30m landscape cash

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 1,200 farmers have applied for grants to conserve and restore threatened landscapes under a countryside stewardship scheme launched last June. It was announced yesterday.

The Countryside Commission, which administers the grants on behalf of the environment department, said that they were being increased from £13 million over three years to £30 million over four. Sir John Johnson, the commission chairman, said it was hoped that the pilot scheme would lead to a national conservation system.

If all the 1,183 applications are approved, the scheme will cover about 170 square miles, in a third of which the grants depend on the public being

given access. Farmers are paid up to £120 an acre under ten-year contracts for protecting or recreating five types of countryside: chalk and limestone grassland, lowland heath, grazing marshes, water meadows and other wetlands, coastal vegetation and uplands.

All these landscapes have been severely damaged by ploughing and draining uncultivated land and by heavily subsidised, intensive agriculture that has led to overgrazing. The highest payments are for farmers who not merely preserve such landscapes but restore them, for example, by letting arable fields revert to pasture, heath, heather moorland or hay meadows, or by leaving swaths of untillied land along cliff-tops.

There are payments for restoring such traditional features as drystone walls, hedgerows, red beds and pollarded willows. Farmers qualify for an extra £20 an acre if they allow the public on to their land.

Sir John said that the commission would soon announce plans to extend the grants to "green margins": areas on the fringes of towns and cities preserved from development by green-belt controls but often allowed to fall into a semi-derelect state. Michael Kirby, the commission's director of operations, said: "Government policy has been successful in checking urban sprawl, but little attention has been given to positive exploitation of the recreational possibilities of areas of land on city fringes."

Friends of the Earth welcomed the cash increase but said that the proposed expenditure was tiny when compared with the £1,600 million spent every year on subsidising agricultural production. Robin Maynard, its countryside campaigner, said: "It is hard to take the government's commitment seriously when its main answer to agricultural overproduction is still the sterile set-aside scheme which simply pays farmers to leave their land idle."

Polio caught from nappy

A MAN has been paralysed after contracting polio from the nappy of his niece days after the baby was inoculated against the disease.

The man, aged 48, who has not been named, was taken to Southampton general hospital with progressive paralysis after his doctor became alarmed by his symptoms. He is receiving constant treatment in the neurological unit.

The man, who is understood not to have been inoculated against polio as a child, was admitted on November 28 but details of his case have only just been disclosed. He has since developed paralysis of the lungs and has been placed on a ventilator.

Martin Wale, a consultant in communicable diseases at the hospital and who is caring for the man, said that there was no specific treatment available. "It is literally a one in three million chance that he contracted polio. The chance is so remote it is almost indescribable. It must be stressed that it is one of the

safest of all methods of vaccine."

Polio attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Seven million doses of the polio vaccine are given in sugar every year in the United Kingdom and it is seen as one of the safest inoculations. Specialists have urged parents to continue having their children immunised.

The health department said that in 1989, the latest year for which figures are available, only one case of polio was recorded in Britain.

Lassy puts bite on TV licence dodgers

A powerful computer system that gives instant access to television licence records is being used against evaders.

A campaign began in London at the start of the month and is being extended to cover the South-East, using a fleet of new detector vans. Post Office investigators, with the help of the Licence Administration Support System - nicknamed Lassy - are catching more than 1,000 evaders each day.

The computer can call up any of 24 million addresses and issue print-outs. An estimated 1.9 million licence dodgers deprive the BBC of £150 million a year.

Pair remanded

Mark Dooley, aged 18, and Timothy Kelly, aged 21, of Deptford, southeast London, were remanded in custody by the Central Criminal Court after admitting the manslaughter of Ronald Harrison, a retired headmaster.

Boys tortured

A sea cadets lieutenant from London was jailed for three and a half years by the Central Criminal Court for sadistic sex attacks on boys in his charge who were told that they had to pass through an initiation ceremony of pain.

Gas charge

British Gas is to stand trial at Luton crown court over explosions at Royston, Hertfordshire, last March allegedly caused by a gas surge after a pipeline was laid.

Foul play

A tractor-driving joyrider caused up to £20,000 of damage to Romsey golf course, Hampshire, when he churned up the 11th green and damaged two fairways.

Jolly good

Michael McCarthy, aged 43, a bistro owner of Mossley, Greater Manchester, has been chosen as the voice of the laughing man figure on Blackpool pleasure beach.

Body found

Police are trying to identify a dead man found stuck in a Thames mud bank under Southwark Bridge.

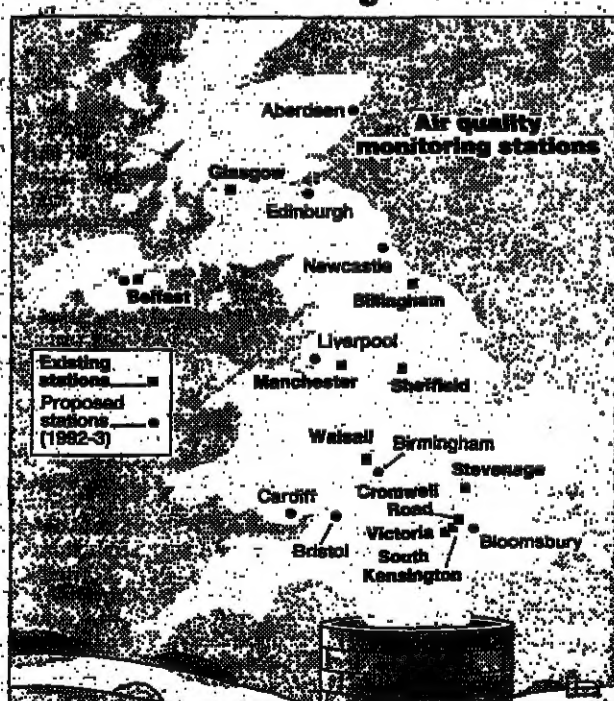
City air 'breaks safety limits'

BY PAUL WILKINSON

AIR IN four of Britain's cities is so badly polluted that it breaks European Commission safety levels, Friends of the Earth said yesterday. Average nitrogen dioxide levels in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Cardiff exceed the EC safety limit of 40 parts per billion, according to a survey by the environmental pressure group.

Conditions in Sheffield, Glasgow, Bristol, Bradford, and Farnham in Surrey are little better and needed careful monitoring, according to the survey, carried out over Christmas and the new year. Details of the survey for BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme were released yesterday as David Trippier, the environment minister, launched a £3 million extension to the government's air pollution monitoring system. Mr Trippier said the survey was "cheap and cheerful" and not sufficiently authoritative even though the results were analysed at the government's Harwell laboratories.

Ten environment department stations already sample atmospheric conditions. Their readings are used for



short term pollution warnings, particularly of vehicle exhausts, and also help scientists to trace the effectiveness of long term measures to improve air quality.

In London yesterday, Mr Trippier inaugurated the capital's fourth site and the first

of a batch of more sophisticated units. By the end of the year he expects five more, in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Birmingham and Newcastle. Extra sites at Liverpool, Bristol and Aberdeen will open early next year and by 1995 there will be 24.

Canny farmer plots floral hereafter

BY KERRY GILL

FOR years, Ian Alcock dreaded the thought of being buried in an official cemetery, a practice that he considered morbid and exorbitantly expensive.

As he grew older Mr Alcock, aged 56, and his wife Alison began to look favourably on a wildflower meadow within a site of scientific interest overlooking his 500-acre farm on Royal Deeside. The meadow would, he thought, be a delightful place to be interred beside Mrs Alcock when the day of reckoning arrived.

Yesterday, Kincardine and Deeside district council, after consulting the Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland, gave permission for the meadow

to be turned into a private burial ground. There are no plans to have the plot consecrated, but Mr Alcock said: "Over the years the church has come people into thinking they should be buried in consecrated ground, which is not true. And I object to the undertaking, card rubbing their hands when somebody dies. A thousand pounds is nothing these days."

He also denied that his plans to inter his wife were morbid. Using his own mechanical digger, Mr Alcock believes that he can cut the cost to around £28, the price of a cheap plywood coffin.

"If my wife goes first I can operate the digger," he said. "If I go first, I have left her a list of neighbours who have diggers. The ridiculous thing is

that when one of my cows dies I can go ahead and bury it, but I need planning permission to bury my wife who is only a third of the size. When I die I would much rather lie in my own bit of ground than be lined up in a cemetery with a row of people I don't know."

Mr Alcock insisted that his wife was in total accord with his views. The burial ground must be created within five years after which the Allocks must re-apply, unless the Great Reaper sends for either of them first. Any fencing or headstones would need separate permission, but Mr Alcock said that he had no intention of ruining the meadow except to plant a tree or place a small boulder on the spot where he and his wife lie.



The new BT Azure - voice activated dialling for safer driving

Face facts. Dialling on a carphone can be a risky business. Even with "hands free" systems, you still have to take your hands off the wheel and your eyes off the road to dial.

But not with the BT Azure. It's the only truly reliable - truly voice activated - car phone. Just tell it the number you want and it will confirm your instructions before dialling. You can even programme it to respond to a name for up to 30 of your most frequently used numbers.

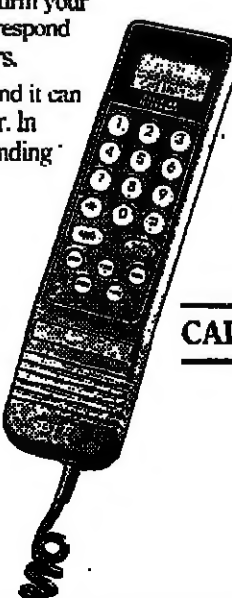
BT Azure can respond to any voice, not just a single user, and it can answer automatically too, without you having to lift a finger. In fact, the hands free and eyes free BT Azure offers an outstanding range of road safety features.

And as with all BT cellphones, the Azure comes with:

- Top quality coverage from the Celine network
- Callback - the ultimate answering service
- 12 months Supercover maintenance and free 24 hour Customer Service Helpline
- Dedicated support team for major accounts

So don't be a reckless dialler. Try talking to the BT Azure. To find out how the BT Azure can meet your company's requirements, call us now on 0800 222 656.

Be Mobile. Be Sure. BT.



Recommended as an aid to Road Safety

CALL FREE 0800 222 656



Speaker separates warring parties

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

BERNARD Weatherill, the Speaker, yesterday warned MPs of the growing public distaste for the electioneering which is disfiguring Commons proceedings.

In a clear rebuke to Tory MPs who lob electioneering questions to the prime minister, Mr Weatherill warned them in advance not to ask Mr Major to comment on the policies of other parties for which he was not responsible. Tory MPs have counter-charged that Labour whips have been involved in organising programmed barracking of ministers, and earlier yesterday Mr Weatherill had to appeal for "moderation in language".

At a morning press conference Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, had complained of the country being engulfed by a crime wave and promised that Labour would increase the number of police, paying for them from within the existing budget by ceasing to send to prison "people who shouldn't be there".

At Home Office question

time John Patten, the minister of state, accused the Opposition of proposing "to empty our prisons to pay for more police — that coming from a Labour party which in 1979 left the police force of this country 8,000 under strength". After Mr Patten had said that being "assaulted" by Mr Hattersley was like being attacked by a bread and butter pudding, Mr Weatherill called for moderate language "since we have all got to live with each other for the next few months in an electioneering atmosphere".

But the partisan exchanges continued when the next week's business was discussed. MPs have noted that these weekly sessions are regularly included in the television coverage of the prime minister's Thursday questions and Tory MPs used them yet again to draw attention to Labour's tax policies.

This drew protests from Dr Jack Cunningham, who is both shadow leader of the Commons and Labour's campaign co-ordinator, that the "premeditated dishonesty" of

Conservative Central Office should not be permitted to be read into Hansard's reports of Commons proceedings.

After the charge of organised Labour barracking by Tory MP Robert Hughes, the Speaker said that the bad behaviour was coming from both sides and giving him some difficulty in defending MPs against the public who wrote in to complain.

Nothing stopped the daily barrage inside and outside the chamber. After Neil Kinnock's prediction in a *Financial Times* interview that Labour would win the election with an overall majority of 20 seats, Chris Patten, the Conservative chairman, refused to give his own precise forecast but emphasised: "We will win it with a good enough majority to ensure Britain is well governed in the 1990s."

Dr Cunningham yesterday denied as "absolutely false" reports that Mr Kinnock and his shadow chancellor John Smith were split over National Insurance changes while Mr Hattersley called the story a "malicious lie".

Ministers turn on the charm for children

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

MINISTERS are divided over how to reinforce the Tory claim to be the party of the family. Although extra help for childcare costs will be a centrepiece of the Budget, no agreement has yet been reached on whether to extend tax relief on childcare, to raise child benefit or to direct more cash to those on low incomes.

Ministers have been actively lobbied by professional women who are pressing for an extension on tax relief on workplace nurseries to cover provision not located on company premises.

Angela Rumbold, chairman of the ministerial group on women, and Gillian Shephard, the deputy chairman, are understood to favour the scheme. Although Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, is said to oppose this idea, it would be an easy sweetener to introduce in the Budget, merely extending a tax change introduced by John Major when he was Chancellor in 1990.

Some government advisers are now arguing that this would not be the best way of targeting mothers who are most in need of extra help. Under a scheme to extend tax relief for work-

ing mothers, two-earner families who probably need the help least would benefit most, and prosperous families would gain at the expense of the poor.

Some ministers argue that the Tories should be supporting women who choose not to go to work, as well as those who do. One way of helping all mothers would be to raise child benefit. If increases were confined to either the eldest child or to children aged three and four, the government could still argue that it was helping families with childcare costs.

After four years of uncertainty over whether child benefit would wither on the vine, the prime minister has made it clear that he supports the scheme, and the manifesto is expected to confirm a pledge by Tony Newton, the social security secretary, that it will be updated annually. Although child benefit is usually updated in the autumn to come into effect the following April, last year Mr Lamont used the Budget to announce a mid-year increase in child benefit for the eldest child, to take effect in October 1991. This brought child benefit to



Women's work: Angela Rumbold is said to favour tax relief for nursery care

£9.25 for the eldest child and £7.50 for subsequent children. This April benefits will rise again to £9.65 and £7.80.

Child benefit now goes to nearly seven million families with 12.3 million children, at a cost of £5.3 billion

(rising to £5.7 billion next year). The cheaper option would be to target families with children under five.

A third option would be to raise family credit for low-income working families and increase family premiums on income support

which goes to the unemployed. Under both social security benefits families get less for children under 11. A working family with a child under 11 is entitled to a maximum of £38.30 a week for the adult credit, plus £9.70 for the child. The means-tested family credit scheme costs £484 million and covers 315,000 families. Income support goes to 4.2 million families and costs £2.54 billion. All families get an extra £7.95 a week. Under this option John Major could redress criticism that the gap between the rich and the poor widened considerably under 11 years of Thatcherism.

One or two of these options could be introduced in the Budget on March 10. However, under all the proposals except for extending tax relief, there is no guarantee that money will be spent on childcare.

Another idea being floated is to ensure that money is earmarked for child support by using a voucher scheme. Mothers would apply for a voucher, say at the Post Office, to go towards childcare costs. The voucher could then be put towards costs of a registered nursery or childminder.

Under a quid for a double pack.



How could you possibly mistake it for butter?

No, your eyes aren't deceiving you. For the next few weeks, "I Can't Believe It's Not Butter!" is down to a price you'll hardly believe. So low in fact, you've got absolutely no excuse for confusing it with butter. As we keep telling you, it's a vegetable fat spread high in polyunsaturates, low in saturates and containing virtually no cholesterol.

Alright, so we do make it with buttermilk. And it does have a fresh butter-like taste. But whatever your taste buds may tell you, it's not butter. Okay? All clear? If you still don't believe us, look out for our double pack at our special offer price. At under £1, it could only be "I Can't Believe It's Not Butter!"

"I Can't Believe It's Not Butter!" is available for under £1 a double pack in most major retailers.

Labour revises pledge on taxes

By Peter Mullan

LABOUR last night qualified its pledge that no one earning less than £21,000 a year would lose under the plan to remove the national insurance upper earnings limit.

Michael Meacher, the shadow social security secretary, conceded in the Commons that some people on lower salaries who earn bonuses, overtime or commission, would be affected. Responding to taunts about the value of the pledge, he said: "It is a guarantee that all of those whose normal pay is at that level will not have to pay more."

He said the qualification was a "tiny little discrepancy" which would bear on "a few dozen, maybe a few hundred" people. Mr Meacher was responding to a challenge after saying Labour would not seek contributions to pay for its spending programme "from anyone earning less than £21,000 a year or £405 a week".

The admission was seized on by Tony Newton, the social security secretary, who said that a great many more than a few dozen people would be hit by the proposal if their weekly income went over the limit at which national insurance is activated.

The exchanges took place during a debate on poverty in which Labour accused the government of wilfully impoverishing the poorer part of the population and claimed that more than ten million people live below the poverty line.

Mr Meacher said the Tories were ignoring the beneficial effect Labour's proposals — to boost pensions and child benefit — would have on the poor.

Defending the government's record, Mr Newton was sharply challenged when he claimed support from the social security select committee. Frank Field, the committee chairman, accused him of using "highly selective quotations" from a committee report to argue that income increases had been seen at all levels. Despite repeated challenges, Mr Newton refused to accept a finding by the committee that the smallest increase had gone to the poor.

Mr Field said that some of his constituents were without hope because of the policies pursued by ministers. "While the average of living standards have increased, under the stewardship of this government, the poor have seen the very smallest increase," he said.

AROUND THE LOBBY

Baker to tackle car crime

A £5 million campaign against car crime is to be launched on February 11 with the support of manufacturers and big insurance companies. Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, announced during question time.

The government had urged car makers to fit deadlocks, immobilisation devices and visible identification numbers, he said.

Mr Baker, who has met car manufacturers three times since December, added that when he first met them they did not seem to take the prevention of car crime very seriously. Now they were much more prepared to make cars more secure.

Bills split

The Local Government Finance Bill, which replaces the poll tax with the council tax, will allow householders to pay the tax in ten instalments. Robert Key, an environment minister, said in a written reply. Councils will also be able to let tenants pay the tax with their rents weekly or fortnightly.

Bentley case



John Patten, a Home Office minister, said in a written reply that he has now received the police report on the Derek Bentley case and hoped to decide soon whether any action was appropriate. Bentley (above) was hanged for the murder of a police officer but his accomplice, Christopher Craig, who was too young in 1953, has cast doubt on the correctness of the conviction.

Parliament today

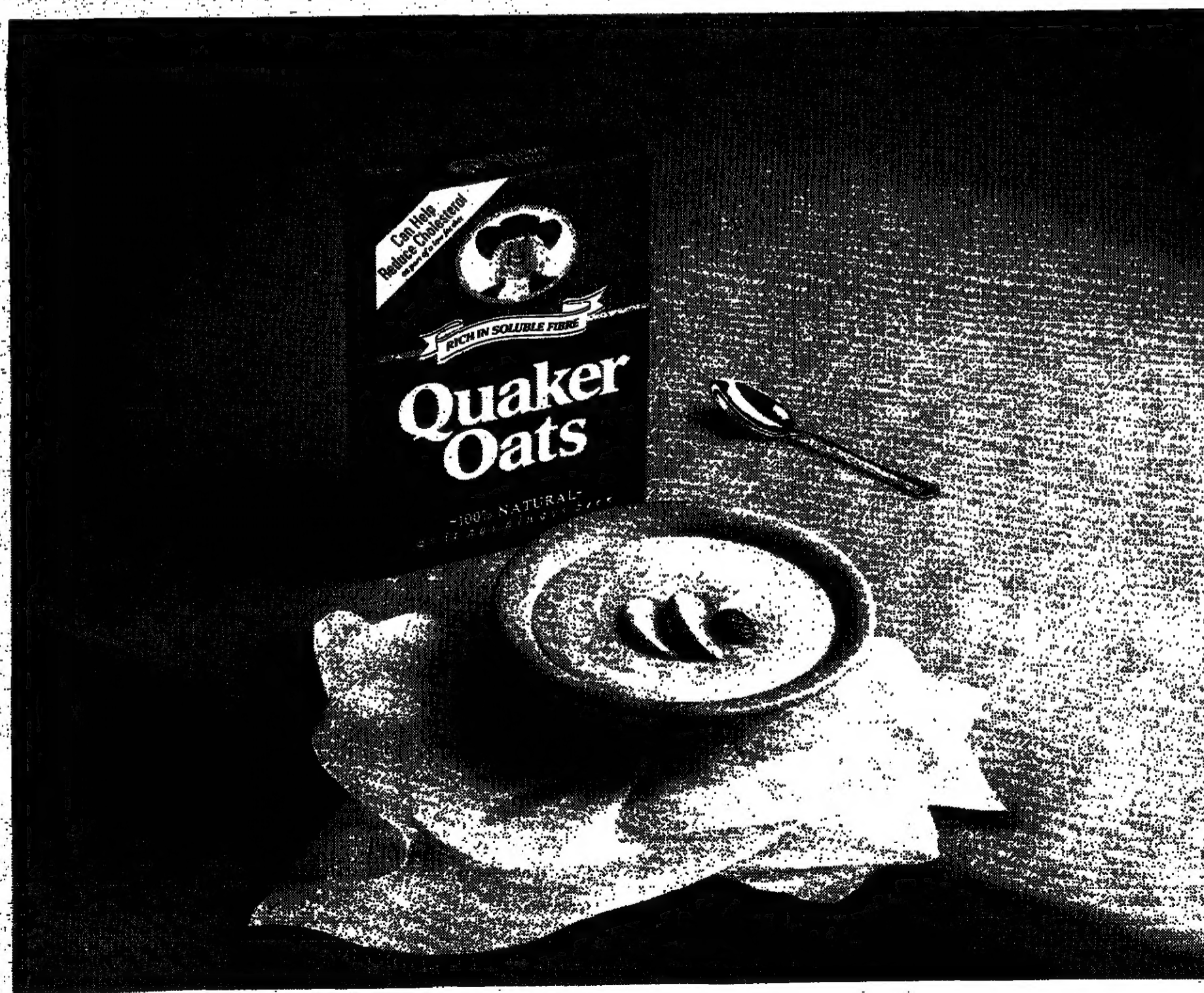
Commons (9.30): Private members' bills: Traffic Calming Bill and Freedom of Information Bill, second readings.

Next week's business

THE main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Northern Ireland electricity orders. Tuesday: Prison Security Bill, remaining stages. Wednesday: Education (Schools) Bill, remaining stages. Thursday: Revenue support grant orders for England and Wales. Friday: Private members' medicinal products: prescription by nurses etc bill and Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill, second readings.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be: Monday: Local Government Finance Bill, committee, third day. Tuesday: Local Government Finance Bill, committee, fourth day. Wednesday: Debates on Wales and on the challenges facing the UN secretary-general. Thursday: Local Government Finance Bill, committee, fifth day. Friday: Coal Industry Bill, second reading. Osteopathy Bill, second reading.

TO REDUCE YOUR CHOLESTEROL, EAT TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.



Two adults in three have high cholesterol. But don't let that ruin your appetite. At least not for Quaker Oats. Because tests have shown that eating oats can significantly reduce cholesterol. And eating oats every day can help lower it even more.

Of course you should also be following a low-fat diet. So while you're cutting back on things like red meat, whole milk, eggs, butter and cheese, when it comes to Quaker Oats you can give caution the boot. And eat to your heart's content.

QUAKER. 92 YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING STRONG.

FOR MORE ABOUT OATS, WRITE TO QUAKER OATS NUTRITION CENTRE, DEPT. NC0206, WINTERHILL, MILTON KEYNES MK6 1HQ.

مکمل ہے

Derek said yesterday: "We're shunned, there were so many calls. It goes to show the Great British Public has a lot to say for itself. At last they have got somewhere to say it."

Soviet admirals resist Ukraine in siege of Sevastopol



Kravchuk fighting for control of the fleet

WHEN Tolstoy described Sevastopol harbour in 1854, with the city under Anglo-French siege during the Crimean War, he spoke of the "noisy jostle of soldiers in grey, sailors in black and women in all sorts of colours".

The sailors in their black and gold uniforms and the women are still there. But the great Black Sea fleet they belong to is demoralised, with many sailors resisting the Ukrainian takeover.

Sevastopol and the Crimea have belonged to a series of European empires over the centuries, but many of the citizens consider themselves, and the fleet, thoroughly Russian.

The fleet accounts for a quarter of the former Soviet navy's firepower. "I will not sign the Ukrainian oath. The

Control of the Black Sea fleet has become a test of Russia's ambitions and Ukraine's will to break Moscow's dominance, Robert Seely writes from Sevastopol

fleet is a unitary system and you cannot take it apart," Captain Andrei Grachov, spokesman for the fleet's commander, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, said. The admiral's refusal to take orders from Ukraine's defence ministry and his instructions to cut military communications between the fleet and Kiev have won him popularity in Russia. Senior officers at the base talk of their motherland, in the shape of a Russian-dominated Soviet Union, being "taken from us". Sevastopol is used to deal-

ing with sieges: its place as "the pride of Russia" is based on heroic defences. Naval heroes on plinths throughout the city bear witness to Sevastopol's role in tsarist and Soviet military history.

President Kravchuk of Ukraine fired the first salvo in the battle for the fleet over a month ago when he declared that Ukraine, as a "naval power", should have the right to at least part of the fleet's 40 warships and 28 submarines.

The fleet commander's refusal to acquiesce to Ukrainian requests is supported by

many of the Crimea's political leaders. Yesterday, Yuri Mishkov, the Crimea's supreme soviet deputy, and other pro-Russian activists began collecting the 180,000 signatures needed under Crimean law to call a referendum on the peninsula's independence from Ukraine.

If they succeed, the result will muddy an already complex problem. While the Crimea remains part of Ukraine, the republic's claim on the fleet, backed by its funding and the fact that conscripts will be supplied only from Ukraine, is strong. If the Crimean autonomous republic is lost, so is Ukraine's trump card in its battle to secure control of much of the navy.

Ukrainian officers in the fleet, who make up 30 per cent of its total, complain

quietly of job harassment if they support the Ukrainian oath openly. "Many officers are scared for their future careers. They are worried they may lose housing and other benefits," said Captain Nikolai Khuk. Three weeks before last year's coup, Captain Khuk received a letter threatening him with dismissal for "anti-constitutional" activities in his support for an independent Ukraine.

Mr Mishkov, however, speaks of the "threat to Europe" from a nationalistic Ukraine. A free Crimea, he said, would give the use of the Black Sea fleet solely to Russia. "The fleet is Russian — historically, judicially, and morally," he argued.

If perestroika came late to Ukraine, it came later still to the Crimea where the mix of



the Communist party's retired dacha class and a dominant military presence ensured conformity to the Soviet ideal. Sevastopol, closed since 1982 and still ringed by road and rail checkpoints, has an air of spartan discipline lacking in almost every other former Soviet city.

However, since the collapse of the Soviet Union, people

have become willing to talk. Ivan Pavlovich, aged 82, a former officer, said that he pledged his loyalty to Russia and the Black Sea fleet's present commander. "[Admiral] Kasatonov is absolutely right when he says Moscow should be in charge of the fleet," he said. "Ukraine wanting its own navy is nationalistic stupidity."

Crimea vote: The Russian parliament voted yesterday to re-examine the transfer of the Crimea to the Ukrainian republic in 1954. Deputies called on their Ukrainian counterparts also to reconsider the basis of the transfer by Khrushchev, of the peninsula, which at the time formed part of the Russian Federation, to the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian republic. (AFP)

Khrushchev knew of 600,000 Stalin toll

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

MORE than 600,000 people were sentenced to death in the years between the end of the Russian civil war and the ascent to power of Nikita Khrushchev, according to figures published for the first time yesterday. Over the same period almost 2.5 million were sentenced to long terms in prison and labour camps, and 750,000 people were exiled.

Tass yesterday gave the figures from what it said was a secret report submitted to Khrushchev in 1954, the year after he became Soviet leader. The figures relate to the 1921-54 period and show that an average of 20,000 people were sentenced to death in the Soviet Union in each of those 33 years.

The news agency quoted the report as saying that 3,777,380 people were prosecuted for "counter-revolutionary activities" over that period, of whom 642,980 were sentenced to death, 2,369,220 to up to 25 years in prison or camps, and 765,180 to exile.

While the figures fall far short of the numbers commonly regarded as the "victims" of Stalin or the Soviet system, they provide a horrific record of those who were punished through judicial channels over that period for the single offence of opposing — or being suspected of opposing — the regime.

Overall figures for those who lost their lives as a direct or indirect result of Soviet communism — including collectivisation and the famine which followed, enforced industrialisation, as well as in the camps — range from 25 to 40 million.

The figures published yesterday come from archives newly opened after the takeover by the Russian authorities of former Soviet institutions, including the former interior ministry. Their disclosure at this juncture may, however, have a further purpose.

President Yeltsin of Russia passed a decree last month that merged the interior ministry and the KGB into a single law and order ministry. His decision was declared unconstitutional and he withdrew the decree.

Before that, however, staff of the two institutions and parts of the Russian media claimed that the new super-ministry was reminiscent of Stalin's NKVD and posed similar risks. The release of the figures may well have been intended as a further volley in the campaign against a merged ministry.

Missile cuts, page 1
Russian realism, page 12
Up for sale, page 14

Estonia prime minister resigns

BY ANATOL LIEVEN

THE fall of the Estonian government yesterday has brutally underlined both the dependence of the Baltic states on Russian oil, and the question of the future political role of the Russian minorities in the region.

The resignation of Edgar Savisaar, the prime minister, follows a severe food shortage which was precipitated by lack of fuel. As trade within the former Soviet Union moves to a hard currency basis, all three Baltic states face enormous balance of payments problems with Russia.

Lithuania and Latvia can ensure some Russian oil supplies because Lithuania controls an oil refinery which resupplies parts of Russia, and Latvia controls the oil pipeline which carries Russian exports to the West. Estonia, however, possesses no such levels.

Mr Savisaar was accused, even by his own ministers, of not foreseeing the oil crisis, and of relying on worthless contracts with Russia instead of determinedly asking for Western aid to pay for Western imports — although the critics sometimes forget that Estonia does not have the port facilities to bring in such imports in sufficient quantity. This charge became part of a general accusation against Mr Savisaar by right-wing parties that, as a former communist, he was too reliant on the old communist establishment and tended instinctively to look towards Moscow.

The Estonian parliament has set a two-week deadline to establish a new government. Mr Savisaar recommended as prime minister the parliament's chairman, and titular head of state, Arnold Ruutel, the former communist leader, saying that the new prime minister should be impartial politically. However, Mr Ruutel's candidacy is unlikely to be acceptable to the right.

Georgian leaders tighten noose

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN SUKHUMI

THE authorities in Abkhazia, the northwestern region of Georgia, announced a security crackdown yesterday and it was widely speculated that a state of emergency would be introduced.

While the crackdown against "legally held arms" was supposedly directed at all sides, it was almost certain to be interpreted as being aimed at supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the ousted president, who control Sukhumi airport and a prestigious government dacha just outside the city.

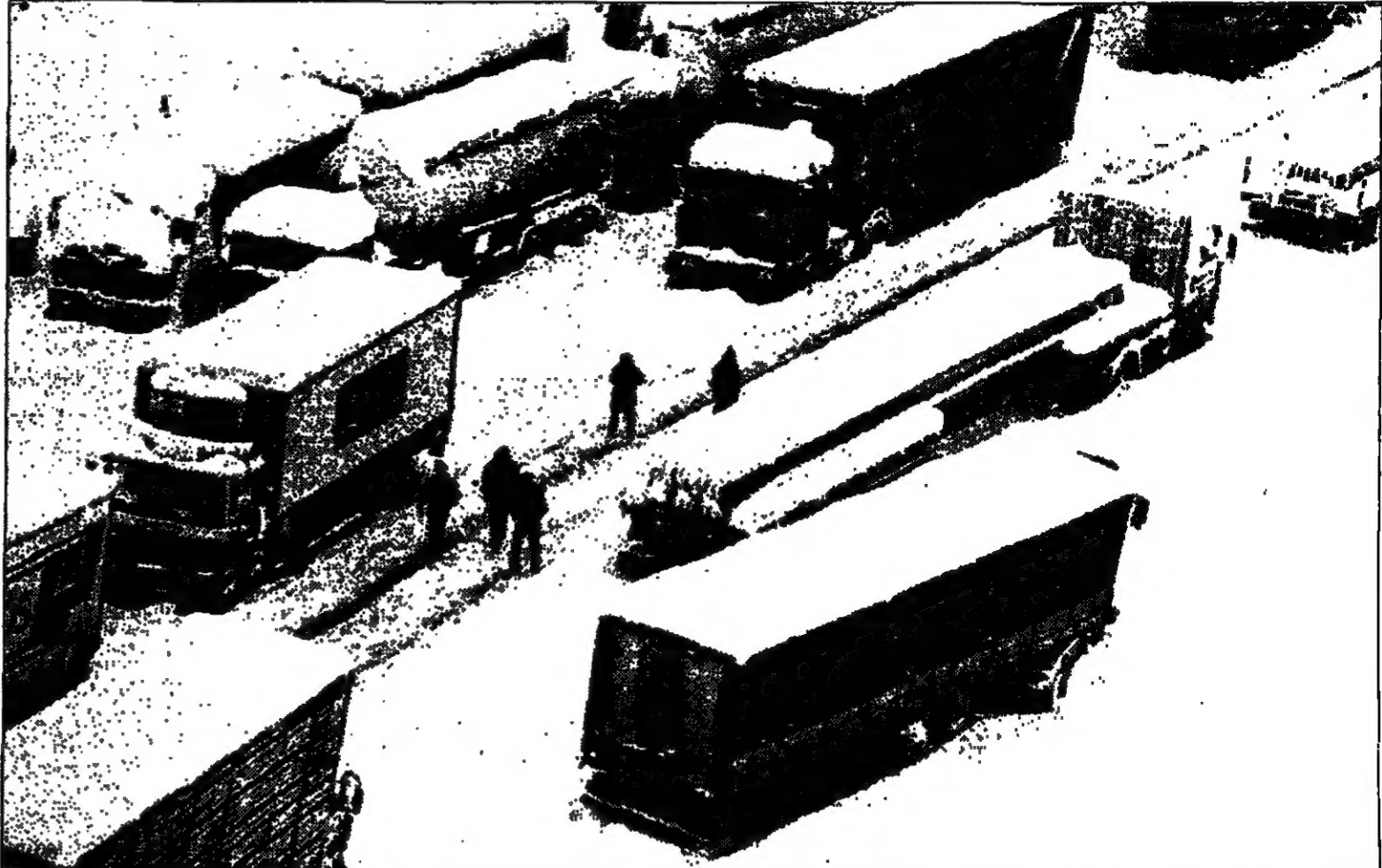
In Poti, government soldiers fought gun battles with armed resistance groups yesterday. A government leader said 15 people were killed in the latest clashes and local officials reported at least two wounded in the Black Sea port, where rival forces fired at each other from opposite sides of the Rioni river.

Officials of the self-governing Abkhazian region, where the ethnic Abkhazian community enjoys much-resented political power, acknowledged that extra-paramilitary forces had been flown into the area from southern Russia. Earlier, a close associate of Mr Gamsakhurdia, Nugzar Molodtsovskiy, had raised the spirits of a 500-strong seafaring rally in the city by announcing that the ousted president "is in good health, is getting better all the time and sends you greetings". He denied rumours that Mr Gamsakhurdia was on a drip-feed.

In the snow-covered valleys of western Georgia, meanwhile, the sides seemed to be edging towards a compromise yesterday, though the opposition strongman, Jaba Ioseliani, was still preparing to use force if need be.



Fighting on: a Danish air force Saab J35 jet, decorated with the squadron's emblem as a protest against closure of an airbase at Karup, overflies a training schooner



Weather-beaten: trapped lorries crowding the road between Toulouse and Carcassonne in southwestern France yesterday after some of the worst snowfalls in the area in recent years. Three people died and hundreds were stranded in the bitter cold. Some areas suffered over-

night snowfalls of between 20 and 50 inches, which brought the region to a standstill. The palm-lined beaches of Biarritz on the Atlantic coast were hit by their first blizzards for eight years. Electricity cuts have affected 50,000 people. One of those who died was a Peruvian

woman, aged 66, who suffocated after her car was buried in a snowdrift near Boulogne. A man was buried to death when his house in St Cyprien caught fire after he lit a candle because of the electricity cuts, and a woman was killed when her car skidded on an icy road. (Reuters)

Hungary manoeuvres to avoid trap set by Yugoslav collapse

Budapest is trying to bridge the ancient divide between East and West. President Goncz of Hungary talks about the difficulties to Anne McElvoy

ARPAD Goncz, the Hungarian president, could scarcely fail to be reminded of the closeness of the Yugoslav conflict. The entire wall of his reception room is filled with a frieze depicting Janos Hunyadi, the 15th-century Hungarian warrior repelling the Turkish advance before Belgrade, then on the southernmost edge of the Hungarian empire.

The rampaging Ottomans are but a distant echo these days, but the state of things in Belgrade remains a Hungarian preoccupation, even if the amiable president hurries to assure that Hungary is long past resorting to force to state its case.

The country, which has a 400-mile border with Serbia, recognised Croatia promptly following the European Community's lead. It is a move which complacence Hungary's already strained relations with Serbia, where there are more than 400,000 ethnic Hungarians with their minority cultural rights and education severely curtailed.

President Goncz admits that there is tension, albeit "verbal", with Slobodan Milosevic's Serbia. On the Serbian side, this verbal tension has taken the form of

accusations that Hungary is siding with the "old Axis powers" of Germany, Austria and Italy against Serbia. It is in Serbia's interests to make an enemy of Hungary and in Hungary's interests not to fall into this role. "Hungary is the country most affected by the conflict between Croatia and Serbia", Mr Goncz said. "We have vital economic links to Serbia, so recognition was certainly not intended to be an anti-Serbian move for us. It is simply a recognition of the way things are."

However, the country has had a thousand years of dealings with the southern Slav states and knows that its own future is affected by the turbulent Balkans. "We have no interest in having a bleeding and desperate Croatia on our border, nor a bleeding and desperate Serbia," the president insisted.

The country is faced with a difficult balancing act. It is feeling the strain of economic transition as it tries to

measure up to the standards of the West. At the same time, it casts nervous glances over its shoulder to see what Serbia, Croatia and Ukraine are up to. Yet Hungarian enthusiasm for a new start is complete and uninhibited. President Goncz talks in the up-beat, cheerfully insistent tones of a team coach at half-time, alternately praising and bullying his people to motivate them through



Goncz: verbal tension with Serbian leader

the hard times. A writer and translator who was imprisoned after the 1956 uprising, President Goncz labours in the shadows of Vladimir Havel and Lech Walesa in Central Europe's fame stakes. But his gentle manner and conciliatory message have made him a popular figure at home. As a liberal, he has had a sometimes strained relationship with Jozsef Antall, his conservative prime minister.

Mr Antall favoured a law enabling those Hungarians who helped suppress the 1956 uprising to be tried for treason. Parliament passed it but President Goncz refused to sign it and referred it to the constitutional court for a ruling as to whether activities such as those of the secret police could be declared treasonous in retrospect. A decision is due at the end of the month.

1956 remains a deep trauma and the appetite for revenge is still strong among those who lived through the events. Once again, President Goncz is trying to steer a course between parties and interest. "We should not repeat the mistakes of the previous regime by resorting to the state as an instrument of revenge," he said.

Jet lacked warning system

London: Air Inter, whose A320 twin jet crashed in France killing 87 on Monday, is the only airline which has not fitted a ground proximity warning system to tell the pilot he was heading for disaster (Harvey Elliott writes).

The instrument is mandatory for all British commercial aircraft but it is not compulsory on aircraft registered in France.

Airbus A320s experienced difficulties approaching the runway at Strasbourg and got false readings from electronic signals beamed from the ground, crash investigators learned yesterday.

Danes to vote

Copenhagen: Denmark will hold a referendum on European political union, Poul Schluter, the prime minister, has announced. At the European Community summit, Denmark agreed to closer union within the EC, provided that it could hold referendums on political union and a single currency later.

General sacked

Islamabad: General Hamid Gul, a senior Pakistani military officer who has gained support from Muslim extremist leaders for his fundamentalist views, has been dismissed for refusing to accept an appointment as head of an engineering complex.

Kurds raided

Ankara: Turkish aircraft have been attacking Kurdish rebels in southeastern Turkey for two weeks, a senior officer said. The attacks appeared part of a drive to weaken the guerrillas before they launch a spring offensive. (Reuters)

Naval pullout

Hanoi: Russia will send a military delegation to Hanoi in April or May to negotiate a pullout from Cam Ranh Bay, and will withdraw all former Soviet military advisers and dependents, a Russian diplomat said. (Reuters)

Estate agents

Berlin: More than two million claims have been filed from people seeking to recover real estate and other property in eastern Germany. (AFP)

£4.99

John le Carre The Secret Pilgrim

£27.50

LET'S GO: FRANCE

£13.99

VIRGINIA WOOLF Mrs Dalloway

£4.99

CHURCHILL
A LIFE
MARTIN GILBERT

£9.99

J.R.R. TOLKIEN THE LORD OF THE RINGS
Illustrated by ALAN LEE

£30.00

GARRISON KEILLOR Radio Romance

£11.99

MARKING TIME
ELIZABETH JANE HOWARD

A discreet reminder from
Waterstone's that our prices, like our bookshops,
are second to none.



Zairea
crush
again!

kh's kill
in attack

Washir
restric



Zairean soldiers crush mutiny against Mobutu

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN KINSHASA

TROOPS loyal to President Mobutu of Zaire put down a mutiny early yesterday, leaving two people dead. Rebel soldiers, whom officials said came from the 312th battalion based at the Seta training camp for airborne troops south of Kinshasa, had seized the radio station here overnight, broadcasting calls for the resignation of President Mobutu, Nguzi Karl-Bond, the prime minister, and his government.

They also wanted the resumption of a national conference on democracy which Mr Nguzi had cancelled at the weekend, leading to street protests and widespread demonstrations among opposition parties. The defence minister, Ngbanda Nzambo Ko Atumba, said the rebel "adventurers" fled from the

radio station before loyalist troops moved in, but "some of them fell into the net of the security forces". The rebels said officially to number 29, used a Coca-Cola delivery lorry to get on to the premises. One mutineer and one civilian guard were killed during the operation, the radio said when it resumed normal broadcasting under the control of the military.

Mr Ngbanda said that the rebels had forced a military journalist to read their statements over the radio, but dismissed their demands as "insanities". In working-class areas of Kinshasa, residents danced in the streets and turned their radios up to full blast during the occupation of the radio station, according to witnesses. Camp Seta, close to Njili airport, saw the

start of rioting by disgruntled troops late in September last year, which grew into pillage and havoc. That level of unrest led to military intervention by France and Belgium, the former colonial power, which evacuated hundreds of foreign nationals.

Central Kinshasa was almost deserted yesterday morning, apart from military checkpoints outside key buildings and at main road junctions which did not appear to have been reinforced. Witnesses said that outlying parts of the capital had also become very quiet.

The French government said yesterday, in a first reaction to the mutiny, that "the resumption of the national conference is the only way to restore calm" in Zaire. A day earlier, the 12 nations of the European Community suspended aid in protest at Mr Nguzi's decision to call off the debate.

Mr Nguzi said the conference could lead to tribal warfare and the partition of the country. His decision came after pro-government delegates made an unsuccessful attempt to change what they called the "geopolitical" representation of the conference, arguing that some Zairean states were favoured unduly.

In their broadcast, the mutineers called on France, Belgium and the United States to intervene to "prevent civil war" in Zaire. The takeover of the radio station was said to



Flag day: an activist of the African National Congress waving the anti-apartheid black organisation's flag from the equestrian statue of Louis Botha, the leader of Afrikanerdom during the Boer war, in front of the parliament building in Cape Town yesterday

Whites prepare to bid parliament farewell

FROM GAVIN BELL IN CAPE TOWN

AFRICA's last white parliament convenes in a splendid colonial building beneath Table Mountain today for what may be its last session.

In his opening address, President de Klerk is expected to outline proposals for sharing power with the black majority, thereby sounding the death knell for the racist institution that has governed South Africa since the country's birth in 1910. As he delivers his speech, thousands of blacks mobilised by the African National Congress will march near the parliament building to demand a prompt transfer of power to

an interim government and a constituent assembly.

Mr de Klerk has conceded the principle of sharing power and is likely to elaborate on his plans for bringing blacks into government at legislative and executive levels as quickly as possible. The consensus is that an interim arrangement, pending a post-apartheid constitution and general elections, should be approved in time for blacks to take their places in parliament in a year's time. The present tri-cameral system, instituted in 1983, is reserved for whites, Coloureds and Indians.

Members of the ruling Na-

tional party say the president cannot be expected to match the drama of his two preceding opening addresses, when he announced the "unbanning" of the ANC and the abolition of apartheid legislation. But Mr de Klerk may be relied on to produce at least one more rabbit out of his hat — the concept of a multiracial interim government.

A signal of parliament's waning authority was an announcement this week that from February 10 it would not sit on Mondays and Tuesdays to allow members to participate in negotiations with the ANC and others.

With the exception of the far-right Conservative party, every parliamentary party has representatives on committees established by the negotiating forum, the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa). Parliament remains the sovereign legislative body, but it is bound formally to liaise with Codesa on any important new laws.

Steve Tshwete, a senior member of the ANC executive committee, summed up the ANC's views on the matter: "It is time for the people to demand, as did Oliver Cromwell of the Long Parliament in Britain: 'In the name of God, go!'"

Japan makes U-turn to buy from Detroit

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IT MAY not make much of a dent in the enormous Japanese trade deficit with the United States, but Japan's parliament is to buy two American cars.

The planned purchase of two Buick Park Avenues, made at the request of the ruling Liberal Democratic party, is to encourage the import of American cars, a parliamentary spokesman said yesterday. What is more, parliament later will buy two or three more American cars, he said.

Diplomatically ignoring the fact that Detroit's products are likely to be too wide to drive down many of Tokyo's narrow streets, the government's investment in the limousines, each worth \$44,000 (£24,000), could backfire as it offers insultingly small change for America.

The news comes after Yoshio Sakurachi, the veteran speaker of the chamber, ignited a Japanese-American dispute by saying that American workers are lazy and their products of poor quality. The remarks brought a hail of denunciations from American political and business leaders.

As a new session of the Diet opens today, Kichiro Miyazawa faces his toughest test since assuming the

position of prime minister last November. With his leadership abilities in serious doubt, he confronts the prospect of an unruly barrage of opposition questions on a series of political corruption scandals involving his close political allies and members of the Liberal Democratic party faction that he heads.

Meticulously for Mr Miyazawa, Japan's opposition parties are effectively impotent in the political scheme of things, since they have not held power for more than 36 years and appear to have no likelihood of doing so. His more serious worry, however, is the fact that once the session gets underway next week, his qualities as a head of state will come under severe scrutiny from the liberal party's real power behind the throne.

Noboru Takeshita, the former prime minister, and Shin Kanemaru, the deputy president of the party, will spend the next few weeks judging whether Mr Miyazawa is fit to continue heading the party. Mr Miyazawa has also watched his popularity plummet in the eyes of an electorate that suspects him of being not only feeble and inept but also corrupt.

Sikhs kill Hindus in attack on bus

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

SIKH gunmen shot dead three Hindus travelling in a convoy of buses through Punjab yesterday on their way to join a mass march to the Kashmir valley. The killings sharply increased religious tensions as troops and paramilitary police tightened security in the two northern Indian states.

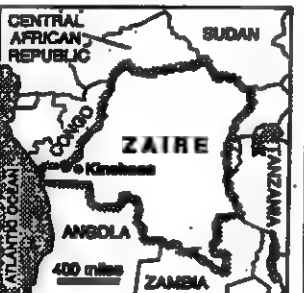
The incident, in which the driver of the bus also died and 30 people were injured, came a day after the government gave a warning that there could be serious trouble once the marchers, who set out from southern India last month, reached Punjab. It had earlier appealed to the hardline Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the official opposition in parliament, to call off the procession because it could spark renewed religious clashes throughout the north.

The victims were travelling in a seven-bus convoy when they came under attack from Sikh separatists using automatic rifles. Several leading members of the BJP were in the vehicles. The executive of the party, which is calling its procession *ekka yatra* (journey of unity), meets in the Kashmiri city of Jammu today to decide its response to government requests to call off the procession.

The *ekka yatra* set off with the aim of highlighting the

alleged threat to the unity of India which is posed by Kashmiri separatists. The present plan is for the procession to travel from Jammu to Srinagar, the capital of the predominantly Muslim Kashmir valley. The security forces have said that they will not be able to guarantee the safety of those taking part.

The procession is headed by Murti Joshi, the president of the BJP, who plans to raise the Indian flag at Lal Chowk in the centre of Srinagar on Sunday, an area regarded as a stronghold of armed militants. There were signs last night that the party might agree on measures to defuse tensions rather than create another crisis across northern India. A *rash yatra* (chariot journey) by the BJP in late 1990 led to widespread violence across the north, in which hundreds of people, mostly Muslims, were killed. Mr Joshi, who was further back in the heavily guarded main part of the procession when the Sikh attack was launched, continued his anti-Pakistan tirade yesterday. He said that Islamabad was "hobnobbing" with central Asian states which possessed nuclear weapons. Islamic fundamentalism threatened world peace, he said, and India should immediately manufacture its own bomb.



be the work of only 29 soldiers, but is likely nevertheless to make the few foreigners who stayed on after the September riots rethink their position, observers said.

Zaire, which is rich in mineral and other natural resources, has been ruled with an iron fist by President Mobutu for 26 years. The national conference, which began in August but has seen previous lengthy suspensions, has been marked by increasingly strong opposition to the president.

Leading article, page 15

Priests say police ignored axe gang

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

TWO Roman Catholic priests have accused South African police officers of standing by and allowing a group of about 20 men, armed with pangas and axes, to board a black commuter train at a Johannesburg station on Tuesday night. For the police, Captain Eugene Opperman said that the claims were being investigated, but that it

was not an offence merely to possess a dangerous weapon.

The allegations came as police reported yesterday that during the previous 24 hours nine people had been killed, either hacked to death or thrown off moving trains, in the Johannesburg area. During the past 18 months, at least 146 people have been killed.

Washington to impose tough restrictions on aid to Israel

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

THE Bush administration last night was expected to set out tough, new guidelines on economic assistance to Israel, in an effort to allay Arab fears that it is helping to fund Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The unprecedented restrictions, on Israel's request for \$10 billion (£5.5 billion) in loan guarantees over five years for absorbing immigrants, were due to be presented to Zalman Shoval, the Israeli envoy to Washington, when he met James Baker.

depend on the safeguards built into the loan guarantee package to ensure that the money was not spent in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. A decision on when the Palestinians will attend the next round of talks, the multilateral conference in Moscow next week, is likely to be decided in Morocco today at a meeting of Arab foreign ministers.

"We are not interested in interfering in American policy or in American-Israeli relations," she said at a press conference. "But we are interested in anything that affects our lives and our rights."

She accused the Israeli government of demanding unconditional assistance so that the funds could be diverted to help it meet the cost of its rapid expansion of settlements in the territories. Peace Now, an Israeli left-wing monitoring group, on Wednesday estimated that Israel spent \$1.1 billion in housing and infrastructure last year alone and built more than 13,000 units on occupied land, an increase of 60 per cent.

However, in a more conciliatory approach, Mrs Ashrawi said: "If the United States can manage to get provisos and to get conditions and to get commitments that would eliminate entirely any possibility of these funds being used to subsidise the occupation or settlement activity... then that is not our business."

Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, whose government has already included this year's first American instalment in its budget, has vowed to continue the settlement construction campaign, but has also appealed to Wash-

ington on humanitarian grounds to help the Jewish state through a period of economic difficulty as it attempts to absorb thousands of immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Israel's poor economic performance, particularly rising unemployment, has already slowed the rate of immigration, which in the first three weeks of this month stood at only 3,000. In addition, a poll released yesterday revealed that the vast majority of Israelis in Tel Aviv, about half the country's population,

do not want to live in the occupied territories. The poll found that only 0.9 per cent would consider moving to cheaper, but potentially more dangerous, housing in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The same survey in 1983 found that 10 per cent were willing to move there.

In the second attack to curb mounting guerrilla attacks this year, Israeli helicopter gunships yesterday blasted positions of Lebanese Muslim guerrillas in south Lebanon, wounding at least one gunman.

ALGIERS NOTEBOOK by John Phillips

When happiness is an outside line

Foreign journalists flooded into the St George hotel in Algeria when the country's first legislative elections were cancelled last week. The hotel, which for a time was Churchill's headquarters during the second world war, has a tranquil garden, with palm trees and exotic flowers, laid out on a hill overlooking the Mediterranean that seems to belong to a different age.

But when hundreds of correspondents tried to call their offices, the hotel switchboard jammed. A few reporters, frustrated at waiting up to three hours for a telephone line, moved to the less chic Aletti hotel, situated on the seaside Boulevard Che Guevara overlooking the port of Algiers.

Rooms at the hotel, which served as headquarters for the international press during Algeria's war of independence, had no direct-dial

telephones and no foreign beer in the mini-bars. But the hard-working switchboard staff invariably managed to get reporters' calls out within minutes.

Perhaps their industriousness was due to the aspirations of Abdelkader Ben-Allague, the hotel's manager, who stood as an independent candidate in the Algerian parliamentary elections. Guests discovered he had inserted electoral propaganda for himself among the stationery in their rooms.

The art-deco table lights in the Aletti restaurant and the battered lift still driven manually by a bell boy recall another epoch immortalized by Edward Behr, the veteran correspondent for *Time* and *Newsweek*, in his memoirs *Anyone Here Been Raped and Speaks English?*

Behr recounted reaching

for a meat cleaver when angry OAS pious burst into the Aletti dining room to protest at what they saw as coverage favourable to Algerian guerrillas. Violence was averted when the hotel's proprietor at the time, Mr



Aletti, intervened. Today windows in the hotel rooms rarely seal hermetically, but for 550 dinars (£13) a night, it seems churlish to complain. Value for money evi-

dently is also a priority for management of the national carrier, Air Algérie. Not all the jets in the airline's fleet are the most modern. The pilot on a flight from Paris on Christmas Day, however, obligingly waited for all the passengers who had reserved seats to check in and embark before taking off. Many of the travellers were returning to their homes to vote.

An earlier Air France flight was over-booked. The disappointed would-be passengers who were turned away included the French widow of an Algerian man whose coffin had to leave without her.

Muslim fundamentalist influences have yet to have any discernible effect on Air Algérie's cuisine. Christmas lunch, served at 30,000ft above the Mediterranean, included lobster, turkey and champagne.

Call to prayer falls foul of Holy City authorities

Jews sound off at Muslims

The volume of the dawn appeal to worship has become a political issue in the Muslim-Jewish confrontation in Jerusalem, Richard Beeston reports

THERE are few sounds in the Middle East quite so romantic as the dawn call of a muezzin calling Muslim worshippers to their first prayer of the day. But like any other religious manifestation in the city holy to the three great monotheistic faiths, even that seemingly simple act yesterday became embroiled in the latest political row pitting Jew against Muslim.

In an unprecedented decision, the Jerusalem magistrates court yesterday found the muezzin of the Sheikh Jarrah mosque next to the American Colony hotel in Arab East Jerusalem guilty of "making unreasonable noise" and causing distress to

Jewish neighbours a few hundred yards away in the Israeli half of the city. The court fined the defendant £55 and was bound over in the sum of £500 that he would not repeat the offence within the next three years.

The conviction was the result of a police investigation into allegations that the tiny mosque, with notoriously powerful loudspeakers attached to its minaret, deliber-

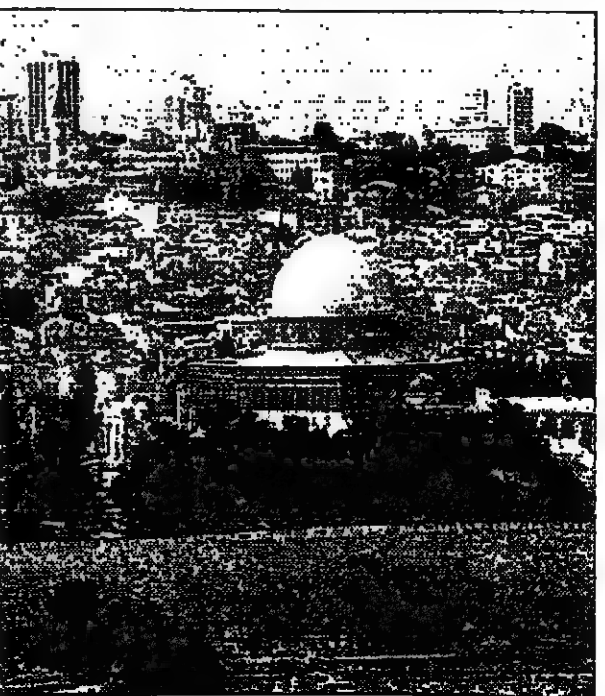
ately turned up the volume of its prayer call five times a day across the old "green line" towards the Jewish residential districts, also at night and during the Jewish Sabbath.

The Jewish Orthodox communities alleged that the volume had increased substantially since the Palestinian intifada began four years ago, and police armed with sound-monitoring equipment found the muezzin guilty of breaking the city's noise regulations. "In addition to Jews, we received complaints about the noise from Muslims and Christians as well, although they were too afraid to give

their names," said Amir Cheshin, the head of the Jerusalem municipality's department of Arab affairs.

However, his comments will do little to ease Muslim anger, particularly since the ruling was made on the same day that Islamic leaders from around the world gathered in Marrakesh to meet King Hassan of Morocco to discuss ways of preserving Jerusalem's Muslim heritage.

The defendant in yesterday's case said he would appeal against the decision and ask Wafk, the Muslim religious administration, to intervene on his behalf. "The city is so sensitive that the court is no place to settle problems like this," said Moshe Amirav, a city councillor. "These arguments should be settled by agreement or else you will lead the city to an explosive situation."



Sound faith: mosques, synagogues and churches dominate life in Jerusalem



Ashrawi: taking a more conciliatory approach

the American Secretary of State. The request for aid was made almost a year ago but delayed twice because of concern that any additional financial assistance to Israel, already the largest recipient of American aid worth \$3 billion annually, could threaten Arab participation in the peace process.

Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, said yesterday that continued Palestinian involvement in the American-led initiative would

Ready, willing, disabled

Alan Franks talks to Alf Morris, the MP whose lifelong battle on behalf of a still-oppressed minority is about to enter a crucial new phase

Alf Morris has been here before. In 1970, with a general election imminent and not much time left in the Parliamentary session, his 33-clause bill, aimed at improving the rights of the disabled, seemed certain to founder. "Never mind," he reasoned. "If the drafting of the bill manages to start a public debate, perhaps it will have served its purpose."

As it turned out, the bill attracted a seldom matched degree of all-party support, developed a momentum of its own, and, before the House disbanded for the June election, had matured into the historic Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act.

A week today, a new and no less ambitious bill, brought by Mr Morris as a private member, and intended to outlaw discrimination against the disabled, mental and physical, is due to reach its second reading in the Commons. Its aim is to guarantee for disabled people similar legal rights to those available to women and black people under the sex and race equality laws. It would make it illegal for anyone to use disability as a reason for withholding equal treatment, whether in housing, employment, education, transport, leisure, or any other public and private services.

Because of the election, such a measure could only become law with the backing of the government's business managers. Once again, time is running out, and the odds seem to be against an enactment this session.

Mr Morris is having no such pessimism. You might expect nothing less from the presenter of a bill which enshrines ideals he has held dear for his 28 Parliamentary years. What he hears as the Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe most of all, and makes him back to 1970 as a plausible precedent, is the fact that Nicholas Scott, the minister for social security and disabled persons, has declared his own attitude to be one of benign neutrality. "Six months ago," Mr Morris says, "or even as recently as last September, you could have described the government's attitude as one of malign hostility. Instead of favouring legislation that would make discrimination a breach of the law, they wanted to educate opinion, and to change the public's approach by exhortation."

These words are delivered in a drawl and weary way, as if the time it takes to say them, and the predictability of their conclusion, describes the futile grind of such

an approach. Mr Morris sounds like a man who has not so much run out of liberalism, but grown tired of its ineffectiveness.

He is now aged 63, full of the patient resolve and dogged humanity that can be found in Labour members of his generation. Having been chairman of the world committee appointed to draft the "Charter for the 1990s" for disabled people, he is also painfully well placed to assess the gap between the aspirations at the start of the decade, and the present reality. He almost seems to have lost his faith in persuasion.

"I have pointed out that on the single issue of car seat belts, the government spent more than £7 million — and I am talking of 1960s prices, not today's — trying to 'educate and exhort', and it failed, and so they had to legislate. Now, they haven't spent anything like that amount in trying to change public attitudes towards people with disabilities, yet they still insist that that [education] remained the way forward."

The parallels between 1970 and now, although extensive, turn out to be largely academic. They also mask a critical difference: whereas the 1970 Act addressed questions of rights and benefits for the first time in a comprehensive way, the present bill is designed to free the disabled from such "further disabilities" as bad employers or denial of physical access to shops, public transport and buildings. Its targets are discrimination by design and by neglect.

"It is simply outrageous for a shipping line to return a deaf woman's cheque because they don't think that a particular holiday is suitable for her," Mr Morris fumes. "That, to me, is the ultimate in condescension, and it is revolting: or for a woman who has been given a particularly responsible post by a police authority to be told, 'You've got the job, but you can't join the pension scheme'. Or for someone who has worked for a company for 20 years and then is suddenly pushed to the back of the longest queue in the country (for jobs) just because his employers refuse to carry out the modifications needed for him at work. Or for a 16-year-old girl getting a job as a filing clerk, only to be sacked on her first morning because she has one hand missing."

Mr Morris only grows impatient if the discussion dwells too long on the state of existing legal remedies for such cases. The



Sport sets the standard: the Southport Sharks tackle Lodgemoor Raiders in a game of wheelchair rugby during last year's Disabled Games at Stoke Mandeville

impression is that there is really no point in discussing them because they do not exist. "The whole point is that, whatever people say, it is not illegal to discriminate. For example, if Earl Spencer wants to deny admission to his home by people in wheelchairs, there is nothing to stop him doing so."

To say that there was no legislation at all on the statute books before 1970 is not technically true. There had been the 1944 Disabled Persons Employment Act, now effectively defunct through the failure of firms to comply with its provisions. One of the most important of these was the requirement that any firm with 20 or more staff should have among

them at least 3 per cent with a registered disability. In 1987 *The Times* reported that barely more than a quarter were meeting the requirement. Today, the Disability Information and Advice Service in London says that the number of companies complying with the quota is "almost none". As for the government itself, not one of its 25 principal departments was meeting the target.

Of course, that Act is not binding on the Crown (an immunity which Mr Morris's bill seeks to remove), yet government departments have none the less agreed in theory to observe the

quotas. Even the BBC, often cited as a benevolent employer, found room for a mere 85 registered disabled in a staff of almost 30,000.

There have been some efforts to enforce the 1944 Act. Mr Morris concedes, "but all the organisations for the disabled with which I have dealt tell me that the law is perpetually defied. There was some staggering evidence in a recent enquiry by one of the organisations, that 6 per cent of employers actually said they would never take on a disabled person. Now that is the kind of thing which is a challenge, and which demands legal action. After all, a disability is a handicapping thing,

and our task is to reduce the handicapping effect of it. If we are prepared to turn a blind eye to outright discrimination, I believe it detracts from our international reputation."

Mr Morris believes that although the 1970 Act meant that Britain "led the world" in disability legislation, we have slipped from the front of the field to the very back; and that countries which were once motivated by our example — he cites America, Canada, Australia and France — are now at the leading edge.

If the Morris bill were to become law, it would be the first time that the term "civil rights" has found its way into the statute book, the

full title being the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill. This, its presenter argues, is significant in its own right. "It represents a positive way of approaching the problem. It is a matter not of saying what we are against, but what we are for: and what we are for is citizenship and social equality for disabled people."

One of the bill's most important goals is the establishment of a Disabling Commission, able to investigate not only individual complaints about discrimination, but also more general areas where discrimination is suspected. And it would have the power to impose penalties, and take employment cases to industrial tribunals.

The bookman's dilemma

Book Aid forces our literary editor into some difficult choices

Like a lot of others, our household has more books than leisure which to read them. So Book Aid, which hopes to have collected up to a million books this week for Russia and the other former Soviet republics, seemed at first like a godsend. Instead of taking bottles to the bank, we would take unwanted books to the nearest Waterstone's.

A literary editor spends much of the day sending books out to reviewers. It is not a job for unduly possessive personalities. Our house is full of books, and it was the work of a few minutes to dig up a box of political books to interest a Russian, because their function is really utilitarian.

We began with titles such as *The Soviet Union and Terrorism*, *Campaigns against Western Defence* or *How Democracies Perish*, books which will help people trying to make sense of their past. There was a fat volume of selections from perhaps the favourite philosopher of all the former communist countries. Hayek. As a sop to any old socialist left in Russia, we added Manny Shiffrin's memoirs.

After that, however, it got harder. My wife, Sarah, contributed a book about nutrition for children which may, alas, be of only academic interest to most Russian mothers. But when it came to English literature, we could not agree. Other possessions are pooled after marriage, only books preserve an absolute claim on



Spreading the word eastward: organisers of Book Aid with (second from right) Daniel Johnson

each partner's loyalty. The truth is that great books — literature, history, philosophy — are hard to give away because over the years they become part of oneself, a reassuring presence on the shelves.

Still, we found a few better letters we could spare. My wife gave a Colin Thubron, I gave a Martin Amis; we agreed on two paperback volumes of Coleridge and Trollope, plus one of Klimt's drawings, only because all three were duplicates. I added a few German books. After a very few more items that I have now forgotten, we called a halt.

The worst of it is that I have often regretted occasions when I rashly gave away, lent or sold books. They are always the ones that are most missed. More than once I ended up buying the same book twice. The choicest and most recondite books, alas, almost never cross one's path again.

Once sold the best part of my small library of chess books for the price of a meal.

Well, I needed the meal, but what a waste — though chess books are probably one thing of which the Russians have plenty. And whatever became of the old *Film Fun* annual I had as a boy, already well-chambered decades before, with its cartoons of wily old bams like Joe E. ("nobody's perfect") Brown?

Probably every reader has his or her little list of literary strays. Why, though, are people so attached to particular books? Such sentimentality seems to defy the growing treatment of books as throwaway items, bought in supermarkets or airport bookstalls and destined to be pulped. That is an attitude which Russians and other Eastern Europeans adopt only too readily in relation to titles of the sort that the late Robert Maxwell used to publish for his communist friends: the detritus of defunct dictators.

But most of the communist system's former serfs would be horrified to see real books by real writers ill-treated.

Disinherited and damned by cause of their enforced idolatry, as some of them feel themselves to be, these men and women revere books all the more now when the texts they were taught to hold sacred have proved instead to be diabolical.

Books are a greater sacrifice because so much more personal a donation than money. Indeed, the thought that it might find a library home in some fabulous place — Novgorod, Vilnius or Vladivostok — should embolden you to grasp the book you were reluctant to wrench yourself away from, and to take it to Waterstone's.

If you cannot bear to give your own books to strangers thousands of miles away, then go to the nearest bookshop and buy one or two books — remainders or paperbacks will do — that you would like to read again. Maybe there will be time to do just that before the deadline of closing time tomorrow.

DANIEL JOHNSON

The only compromise we've made

COLLECTIONS

National Book Aid Week runs to Sunday. Books may be handed in at: Heffers, 20 Trinity St, Cambridge; Blackwell, 50 Broad St, Oxford; H.J. Larr, Royal Arcade, Cardiff; Hammick's, Farnham (both branches); Quaker's, Salisbury and the following branches of Waterstone's: London: Charing Cross Rd, Croydon, Covent Garden, Hampstead, High St, Kensington, Kingston upon Thames, Notting Hill Gate, Richmond, Wimbledon; Aberdeen; Bath (4/5 Milsom St); Birmingham; Bournemouth; Brighton; Bristol (The Galleries); Broadmead; Canterbury; Cheltenham; Colchester (University of Essex); Edinburgh (Princes St and George St); Eastbourne; Exeter; Glasgow (Princes St); Guildford (North St); Lancaster; Leeds (93/97 Albion St); Liverpool (52 Bold St); Maidstone; Manchester (Deansgate and St Ann's Sq); Newcastle; Norwich (St Stephens St); Nottingham; Perth; Preston; Sheffield; Shrewsbury; Stratford upon Avon; Swindon; Winchester; Worcester; York.

Larger book donations: Book Aid warehouse (071 713 7258). Please do not send books to The Times.

Cheques payable to Book Aid may be sent c/o Waterstone's Ltd, 37 Lincoln Place, London SW3 3QH.

Donors of money and volunteers will be entered into a draw.

First prize, return flight to St Petersburg or Moscow, donated by Barry Martin Travel.

Second prize, case of wine donated by Oddbins.

Five runners-up, £20 book vouchers each, donated by Waterstone's. Winners will be contacted by February 14.

7654 Tumble Dryer Was £550 Now £495 Save £55

63315 Larder Refrigerator Was £425 Now £395 Save £30

52901 Vacuum Cleaner Was £195 Now £175 Save £20

65956C Dishwasher Was £885 Now £795 Save £90

W755 Washing Machine Was £275 Now £235 Save £40

Compromise is not a word normally associated with Miele. But, whilst our high standards never vary, our prices occasionally do. Over the next few weeks, you can save on a selection of Miele washing machines, tumble dryers, dishwashers, fridges, freezers and vacuum cleaners. Take for example the Miele G5P55C dishwasher now available at £795 — a saving of £100.

So, whilst we've compromised on the price, we recommend that you don't compromise on the product.

For further information please call 0235 554488.

Miele

Anything else is a compromise

For sale: lock, stock and barrel

Anatole Kaletsky says all Soviet assets must be sold to the people

The travelling circus of foreign ministers has come and gone from Washington. Billions of dollars "worth" of worthless agricultural surpluses has been duly pledged to help Russia and the other former Soviet republics to overcome their non-existent famines and humanitarian emergencies. Meanwhile, proper efforts to support economic reform in Russia have been postponed yet again.

On the eve of the Washington conference, Yegor Gaidar, Russia's deputy prime minister and latest economic supremo, appealed to Western leaders to shift their attention from mere humanitarian assistance to the long-term financial support that will be needed to stabilise the rouble and avert hyperinflation.

The West's public response has been to promise more agricultural dumping and to announce another conference in June. But behind the scenes, there have been signs of attitudes changing. Russia's admission to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, which could release up to \$10 billion a year in international assistance, is expected within months. Proposals for an annual \$20 billion of aid seem quite modest when compared with the Western world's \$650 billion defence budget, the \$60 billion annual subsidies to eastern Germany or the \$200 billion spent by the American government to bail out its mortgage banks.

But if the idea of offering long-term economic support is gaining ground, there is still great confusion about the form of aid and the conditions to be attached. Mr Gaidar's priority seems to be to make the rouble convertible into other currencies and so avert hyperinflation. Yet convertibility is neither necessary nor sufficient for the avoidance of hyperinflation, as Brazil, Argentina and Israel know only too well.

At least three other conditions have to be satisfied before a hyperinflationary country can hope to stabilise the value of its money: the government must stop spending substantially more than it collects in taxes; the banking system must limit the availability of credit to enterprises and individuals; and there must be a degree of competition in the main markets for goods and services, to ensure that tighter monetary and fiscal conditions are reflected in stable prices, rather than collapsing output.

Unfortunately, none of these three conditions is anywhere near being met in Russia. Last year the Soviet Union's budget deficit was about 20 per cent of national income, according to Susanne Gahler of Morgan Guaranty Trust. This year the Yeltsin government has made some bold moves to cut military spending and abolish costly subsidies, so reducing its planned deficit to around 7 per cent of GDP. But even if Mr Yeltsin can withstand the public clamour to raise wages and pen-

sions in line with rocketing prices, he has little chance of collecting newly introduced taxes from uncooperative enterprises and local authorities. And even if the government can limit its own demand for credit, its influence over the burgeoning private banking system is limited, and conflicts between Russia, Ukraine and other commonwealth states and local authorities may undermine hopes of monetary control.

Such fiscal and monetary problems could perhaps be solved by IMF and World Bank programmes, backed by enormous financial assistance. But the first use for this money should not be to make the rouble convertible, but to fund unemployment programmes, support imports (especially from Eastern Europe) and invest in military conversion.

Above all, Western money and expertise should be used to assist privatisation.

Until there is wide private ownership and competition in the economy, market mechanisms will not do their vital job of equalising supply and demand. In this respect, the Russian reforms were introduced in the wrong order. Ideally, sweeping privatisation should have come before price reform, not after it.

According to Mr Gaidar and his Western advisers, the haemorrhaging budget deficit left the government with no choice but to end subsidies and to free prices immediately, while privatisation is inevitably a slow process. But this seemingly technical argument raises a critical political issue, which the new economic establishment in Russia has got dangerously wrong. The Russians seem determined to take their time over privatisation so as to make sure that businesses are sold at "fair" prices. However, either trying to value companies fairly or selling them to the highest bidder could both lead to disaster. Valuation would inevitably mean delays and legal challenges; auctions would naturally favour corrupt officials and blackmarketeers.

There are only three fair ways of rapidly privatising large parts of a communist economy: sell some businesses to foreign investors; give land and housing directly to their present occupants; or distribute shares in most domestic enterprises, free of charge, to the whole population. To the born-again capitalists who now run Russia and other East European countries, the concept of giving people "something for nothing" through mass privatisations is deeply repugnant. It even smacks of socialism. But mass privatisation is the one way to transform a state-controlled economy quickly into an enterprise economy without giving all the best assets away to the blackmarketeers and *nomenklatura*. The West's key condition for giving financial assistance to Russia and the other republics must now be mass privatisation — and it must start at once.



Yegor Gaidar must hold the biggest auction ever

Philip Howard on a guide to stinginess that will appeal to every thrifty English aristocrat

Secondhand snobs

colour and style, to save time in sorting them from your clothes line on washing day, and so that you still have a pair when one sock is at long last holed beyond all mending. Make telephone calls in cheap time, and keep them short by making a list of what you need to say beforehand. Wash paper coffee filters for recycling. Three used teabags have the potency of one new one.

These practices take Americans back to the frontier economy of early colonists in those harsh winters. But for at least the past century and a half since Dickens went there, Americans have been famous for their extravagance rather than for thrift. It is the English upper classes who are notoriously economical. Of course, there have always been exceptions. Young rakehells have gambled or drunk away their estates, or have married for love rather than

prudence. But the general tendency of the British aristocracy, since its landed wealth was limited by the Corn Laws and the industrial revolution, has been thrifty. This tendency was accentuated by the two wars of this century, when the tennis courts were ploughed up for potatoes, and the evacuees were fed on nettle and nasturtium soup.

English peers and their scions are famous for wearing their fathers' and grandfathers' clothes and shoes. There used to be a department at Moss Bros, known irreverently to customers as "Dead Men's Clothes". "You mean the Special Offers Department," the floor manager used to say, with a pained expression. Upper class clothes from the famous old tailors and shirtmakers in Savile Row and Jermyn Street are built to last, as are shoes from Lobb the bootmaker. An upper-class acquaintance took some Harris tweed into

one such place the other day, to have a suit with knickerbockers made for his country pursuits of biffing and boffing. "This will be your terminal suit, then, Sir?" asked the assistant, toiling around him with his tape measure. He was a bit offended, since he is only just steering towards middle age. But such clothes are built to last several generations.

That is why the English and Scottish upper classes dress like tweedy tramps. To avoid odious particularisation of the living, Lord Emsworth always dressed like something, the cat had brought in — and the ginger tom at Blandings was broad-minded. Emsworth saved his money for the things that really mattered, like the best swill for the Empress and fivers for small girls. The British laboriously unknown string and keep it in little coils for a rainy day. When a nob dies, his "office" is

found to be full of tins of copper coins and used stamps.

The English lexicon is rich with words for thrift, all of them borrowed from the French: *skinflint*, *purse*, *cheeseparing*, *Scrooge*, *cheapskate*, *tightfisted*, *curmudgeonly*. In a continual triumph of hope over experience, the English vocabulary for generosity is admiringly liberal, handsome, free, princely, oofy, rich as Croesus. When Dick Turpin held up the ducal coach with the Duke of Rutland in it and said "Your money or your life", there was a long pause. Dick repeated: "I said, your money or your life." The Duke: "I heard you, my man. I'm thinking over your proposal."

There ought to be a market for *The Tightwad Gazette* in this country. The trouble is that an overseas subscription is \$21 or its sterling equivalent, £11.70. And, in any case, the mag is not likely to contain anything that we have not known and practised for centuries. Where do you suppose all those phrases about cheese-paring and candle ends came from in the first place?

The most crucial stage of the election is already well under way, argues Peter Riddell

A far from phoney war

A WEEK IN POLITICS

Political parties are already testing the public's patience — at least 11 and possibly 15 weeks before polling day. Three weeks of almost daily salvos have produced signs of campaign fatigue. After yet another rowdy Commons clash, Bernard Weatherill, the Commons Speaker, sighed, in his best world-weary headmaster style: "In my judgment the election campaign started when we came back from the Christmas recess. It has ever been thus."

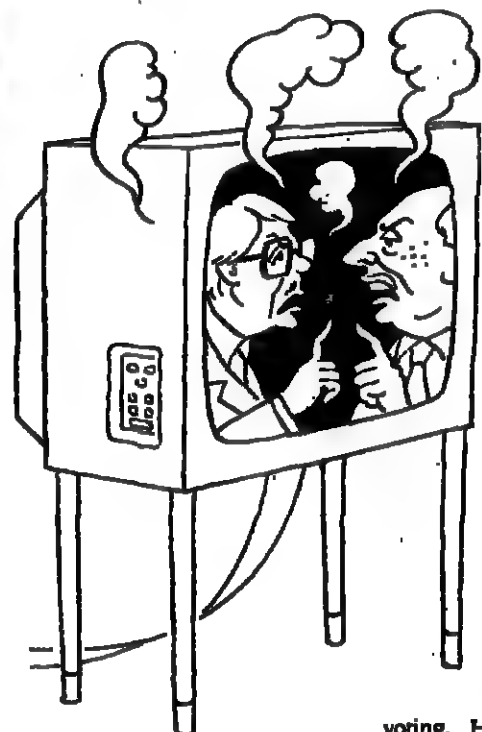
Many people must sympathise with the memorable title of Jack Germond and Jules Wotwore's book on the unmemorable 1984 American presidential election, *Wake Me When It's Over*.

But if campaigning is so unpopular why do the parties do it? They are pounding each other in what is far from a phoney war because they believe they have no choice and because it works. And, tedious and tiresome though it is to some, the current pre-campaign helps to refine the voters' choice.

The parties each argue that they have to campaign vigorously because the others do. It is like the successful British Lions packs of the 1970s operating on the principle of getting their retaliation in first. The Tories' case for this month's onslaught on Labour's tax plans is that, unless they had attacked in January, Labour might have built a sizeable lead on the back of the gloomy talk before Christmas about the economy.

The parties know that this is the time, before the formal four-week campaign, when the electorate makes up its mind. These days voters are more open to such influences, because they are less firmly attached to one party or another than they were before the 1970s. (This is the much-debated partisan realignment.)

There is a lot of movement during the final campaign, both between parties and between parties and abstention, but the moves tend to cancel each other out. The biggest net shift towards one party



or another tends to occur earlier, in periods such as this. Specific events can be decisive: the strikes and union disruption of the winter of 1978-9 crucially affected the subsequent election. But these are rare occurrences and party campaigns are usually more important in deciding electors' choices.

A series of interviews during 1986-7 with a large panel of voters (as reported by Professor William Miller and others in *How Voters Change*) shows that the Tories created their election-winning margin during the winter before the May-June campaign. The Tory recovery was not a process of gathering in latent supporters, but was greatest among those who did not usually support any party but who did identify with a class. This additional support was greatest among *Sun* and *Star* readers.

Similarly, the Tories' current campaign is aimed at hardening wavering voters' views about Labour. Professor Miller's research shows that voters' feelings about which party is best at managing the economy (where the Tories are still ahead) and which is best for themselves correlates closely with

voting. However, despite long-established evidence that a growing majority of voters would accept higher taxes to finance more spending on public services, this altruism has a looser relationship with voting intentions. In 1987, a majority of those who thought the Tories were best at managing the economy wanted a tax increase, albeit a small one. Attitudes towards public spending and taxes matter, but the key is the size of any tax increase. This is why the Tory campaign has had an impact. Not only are the main parties still roughly level-pegging, but more than half the electorate believes that taxes would go up under a Labour government.

Over the last three weeks, the Tories have shown their instinctive ruthlessness in a close fight. They have shifted the debate to an issue favourable to themselves, with the help of the highly partisan Tory tabloids, and have forced Labour to appear muddled. The apparent confusion over the phasing of increases in the higher rate of taxes and the ceiling on employee national insurance contributions has led to some sharp words among Labour leaders about the

need for coordination. And before the election is over, Labour will have to be more precise about how it intends to finance its priority programme of raising child benefit and pensions and stimulating investment and training.

The current Conservative campaign may work, but is it right? The allegation that Labour would raise income tax by 10p in the pound is, as stated, absurd. Not only have Labour spokesmen repeatedly said that ordinary families cannot afford to pay any more tax, but, more pertinently, such a sharp increase would be electoral suicide. What matters about the Tories' revised costing of Labour's promises at more than £37 billion are not the numbers, but the questions about the status of comments by Labour spokesmen. Are they pledges or vague aspirations which falsely raise expectations? There is a contrast between the austerity of John Smith and the more permissive attitude of those shadowing spending departments.

The recent party exchanges, crude though they have been, have generated a debate among economists about what can be afforded. Promises have been analysed. As I have written before, neither party has much leeway over tax or spending after the increases in public spending announced last November, and in view of the limits on borrowing in the European monetary guidelines. The two main parties have converged, in the sense that they recognise the limits of what voters and markets will tolerate. As a result of this wider debate generated by the slogans, voters are in a better position to reach an assessment than they were a month ago.

The campaigning will continue at its current pace until April 9 or May 7, neither party dare let up. Similar extravagant abuse has begun over who is to blame for the recession, and is likely next month to greet Labour's new offensive over the health service. However impatient the political classes may get, such clashes are an inescapable part of democracy. Elections are seldom nice and have often been a good deal nastier.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

You could say it was none of my business. It was not in my tree, it was in the council's tree, outside my house and my jurisdiction, and it was therefore the council's business. But what I say is *civis Romanus sum*, which translates roughly as "I'm a Roman citizen, it will be there for six months, or until some kid chuck a brick at it and the brick goes through somebody's window, viz mine".

Apart from which, it looked horrible. This being the time of year it is, it is bad enough beholding bare ruin'd choirs where late the sweet birds sang, without having to behold something quite as ruinous to a bare choir as this. Shakespeare didn't know how lucky he was: true, there may have been chips and dog-dents littering the feet of Elizabethan trees, but at least Raleigh did not bring rubber home from the New World. When Shakespeare looked out of his bedroom window, he did not find an enormous red balloon looking back at him.

Looking moreover with two blob eyes and a crescent grin: you know the face I mean, the circular minimalist one created in the Sixties so that lapels and tee-shirts could proclaim the virtues of substances which gave you two blob eyes and a crescent grin. Since I did not want this in the tree outside my bedroom window, I ran downstairs, screwed a couple of drain-rods together, and went outside for a bit of a poke. It did not go bang. The grin grew grotesquely twisted,

but the cheeks held, until, with one bound, the face was free and floating, very slowly, down.

The end of the problem? The beginning.

I had, until that moment, assumed that the face had broken away from some homelodging infant for whom a tube of Smarties, a wedge of birthday cake, and a balloon-string had proved too much for one small mitten, but it was not so. This was an adult balloon. Moreover, and despite its vacuous grin, it was a serious one. I could tell this, because it was Belgian, and you do not get much more serious than that. And I could tell it was Belgian because it sported a label that had been attached to it by one Martin Vertaan, who had done the attaching at a carefully printed-out address in Liège, which, I'm embarrassed to admit, gave me immoderate pleasure, because this meant it was a Walloon balloon.

However, even such agreeable gift-horses have to have their mouths examined, which was where the problem I mentioned began. For I had Martin's address, but what was I going to do with it? He had despatched the balloon in the hope that someone finding it would write back to him, and common courtesy, indeed, seemed to require me to let him know that the thing had successfully negotiated the 250 miles which separate Liège from Cricklewood. Furthermore, that's only if you're a crow: if you're a balloon, frail prey to every breeze and thermal, you

could have been anywhere, you could have got to my tree via Kyoto and Bogota, so, Martin argued, I owe the balloon itself, after all its hard work, something more than a pin and a wastebasket? Wouldn't it want Martin to be proud of it?

And yet, and yet, who is Martin? What kind of man sits in a room in Liège with an oxygen cylinder and a bag of balloons, filling the international welkin with his name and address? And wanting, moreover, mine in return, because that's what the label invited, in half a dozen languages. He might be merely an amateur meteorologist, he might be merely unemployed, he might be merely lonely, but he might, too, be raving mad. You can never tell with people who float balloons out of Belgian windows. Would I want to enter into a correspondence with a crackpot? I wouldn't even want to enter into a correspondence with an isobar in Flemish, and since I do not know what an isobar is in English, I cannot see much future in further contact, you know how it is with people, one thing leads to another, and before you know it there is an anorak standing on your mat holding two fir-cones and a rain-gauge and asking to stay the night so he can pass on his occluded front anecdotes.

I think my best course would be to put the balloon back in the tree and let Martin deal with him. That's what poll tax is for.

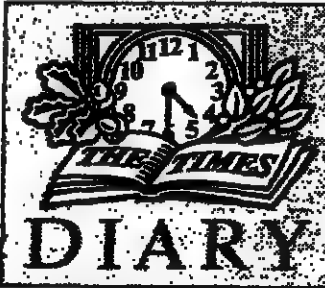
Roadshow stopper

AS Whitehall buzzes with election scheming, a row has broken out over whether plans to spread the word about John Major's citizen's charter constitute government information or party propaganda. The government had hoped to launch the "citizen's charter roadshow" with Francis Maude at the wheel of a "charter bus", touring the country. The plan has now been quietly dropped because the campaign, which would have been funded by the taxpayer, bore a remarkable similarity to one of the main planks of the Tory election campaign.

On Monday Major is due to unveil the "charter mark" — a symbol of excellence to be awarded to worthy firms — akin to the Queen's award to industry. The plan was that Maude would cash in on the publicity for the charter, which the Tories hope will be a vote-winner.

But with an election only months away civil servants feared that Labour MPs would seize on the venture as an unfair use of taxpayers' money. A spokesman for the Cabinet Office citizen's charter unit says: "The idea was to let the public know what the charter is all about but we are not going ahead at the moment. That's not to say that we won't do so in the future."

Behind those words lies a dispute with the Central Office of Information, which handles government information but is rigorous in its refusal to get involved in party propaganda. "If it is getting so close to an election, we would advise against this because everything has to stop in an election. You have to consider whether it is a very wise use of taxpayers' money," says a spokesman.



"I'll be wearing my clove of garlic round my neck for a few more days," says Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, who said a decade ago that he would believe Charles Haughey dead only when he saw him "buried at midnight with a stake through his heart". But even O'Brien thinks the latest scandal will prove too much for the Taoiseach. "If the government falls, then Fianna Fáil will hold an emergency meeting and I think they'll finally ditch him. Only then will it be safe to put my garlic back in the drawer."

Over again

THE first American GIs arrived in Britain 50 years ago this weekend. "Over-paid, over-sexed and over here," as wartime Britain famously summed them up. Raymond Seitz, the current American ambassador, confessed to two out of the three epithets.

Veteran Ben Calder, at the Imperial War Museum yesterday to launch an anniversary exhibition, says these days he is only over here. Calder recalled how he first fell for his wife Pearl at a party in London, put a ring on her finger and settled here. "I'm a GI bride in reverse," he says. "I do still miss Baltimore. Harrow just isn't the same. Both my sons feel they're British so I'm the only foreigner in the family."

From today thousands of former GIs will be swarming into Britain. "Sunday is an important anniversary," says Dr Alan Borg, the director general of the Imperial War Museum. Some regarded the invasion of the GIs with almost as much trepidation as an invasion by Hitler. "This time the country will probably welcome those returning wholeheartedly. Mind you," he says, "if the number of GI brides is anything to go



by they had a pretty good welcome the first time. Any snide British remarks didn't upset the Americans. They simply replied that the British were under-paid, under-sexed — and under Eisenhower."

Selling point

THE reverberations of the Maxwell affair continue as further forgotten outposts of the empire discover that promises have not been honoured. Philippa Harrison, the managing director of Macdonald publishing, says: "For the first ten days of this month the administrators said they could not afford to pay staff their full salaries. Everyone was paid for the rest of

Writers flock

YESTERDAY'S appointment of Alex Shulman as editor of *Vogue* is merely the latest appointment in one of journalism's great family dynasties. Her mother, Drusilla Beyfus, was editor of *Brides* and *Harrods* magazines. She was also associate editor of *Vogue* from 1979 to 1987. Sister Nicola, the Countess of Mulgrave, writes for the rival *Harpers & Queen*. Her father, Milton, is of course a theatre critic. "It's not a dynasty, it's an epidemic," he says proudly of his own family.

Collectors of malapropisms will delight at the return to office of one of the great exponents of the (nearby) English-speaking world, Tommy Patton, the former Belfast lord mayor, installed yesterday as the city's High Sheriff. He has for years amused Belfasters with his regular accusations of "meringuing" parks committee was discussing the acquisition of a gondola for the lake at Belfast Zoo. "Shouldn't we buy a pair," enquired Patton, "and breed our own?"



AFRICA'S PATRONS DEPART

Pliny was wrong: out of Africa always something old. President Mobutu of Zaire was back in the news again yesterday when another bid to topple his regime was ended by those few palace guards still loyal to his fading cause. Mr Mobutu, a dictator for more than two decades, has been holding revolt at bay by promising his people free elections, but these promises have proved as empty as hopes of winter snow in his tropical capital, Kinshasa.

Since September, Mr Mobutu's grip on power has looked increasingly tenuous. His underpaid soldiers have fled the country and the international lending institutions have long given up hope of retrieving all the good money they have been pouring after bad. Zaire, like many another Cold War client state, has been abandoned by its patrons among the superpowers and international bankers. Chaos has ensued.

The Mobutu regime was one of the many beneficiaries of the Cold War. It will be one of many casualties of its conclusion. Zaire, in the parlance of the American State Department, was a "strategic asset" to be denied to the Soviet Union. With the end of colonial rule in Africa, it seemed imperative to Washington to prop up the successor states. Zaire's rich mineral resources had to be kept in friendly hands, which soon, inevitably, meant corrupt ones.

The country became an important conduit for aid to the UNITA forces fighting the Soviet-backed government in Angola. The Americans and the former colonial power, Belgium, kept international banks sweet while the French lent parachute whenever a provincial rebellion threatened to dismember this artificial state. There were also suspicions that the Soviet Union backed coups in the late 1970s to boost prices. As war scare stories multiplied the Soviets would make a killing selling minerals.

With Western backing, Mr Mobutu built himself 11 palaces and sent billions of dollars in non-commercial loans to Swiss bank accounts. His subjects were left with an average income equivalent to £130 a year, a woeful mortality rate and a government that spent more on presidential perks than on housing, health or education. The rest of the money was spent on the usual Third World

idiotcies — nationalisation and prestige projects — creating profits for the ruling class. Now the American administration, prodded by Congress, has reduced its economic assistance and withdrawn military aid. Even relations with Belgium have swiftly deteriorated.

This pattern has been repeated across the continent. For years Washington feared that a communist dominated ANC government would arrive in South Africa on the back of a Cuban tank column. Ethiopia and Somalia took advantage of global naval competition between the superpowers to lease their coastlines in return for modern weapons. With bloated arsenals, these two countries proceeded to fight each other, swap patrons and turn their guns on their own rebellious subjects. Now the Cold War is over both have been left to their own devices, engulfed by famine and anarchy.

Meanwhile the oil-rich Arab states no longer feel the need to buy African votes at the United Nations to secure the passing of anti-Israeli resolutions. As apartheid in South Africa is swept aside, the front-line states are no longer the lucky beneficiaries of white, liberal solicitude, aid and Soviet support. Time was when African states could rely on a post-colonial superpower patronage to build their infrastructure, or at least subsidise their elites. One superpower has collapsed and the other is devoting its energies to propping it up. Africa must look to the once vilified multi-national companies and even to South Africa for sponsorship, and it will be painful.

The West has come late to accept that poverty "neither excuses nor justifies" tyranny, torture or corruption. In the words of Britain's aid minister, Lynda Chalker, the political habits of African dictators can no longer be dismissed as a legacy of colonialism. Too much water, and blood, has flowed down the Congo for that apology to wash any more. The blame lies with leaders who spend more of their national income on guns than butter, and on outsiders who patronised them with their support and aid. Western governments are at last making assistance conditional on political and economic reform. If Africans wish to call this neo-imperialism, so be it. The time has come for straight talking.

PARADISE MISLAID

The town of Milton Keynes is 25 years old this week. Some congratulations must be in order for those who have striven to coat the Buckinghamshire countryside with grids and plazas. Of all this century's attempts at Utopian settlement, Milton Keynes is perhaps the least arrogant and the most flexible. But the anniversary is none the less a memorial to a tradition of social engineering that must be seen as dead and buried. Hardly, however, to be mourned.

Milton Keynes was the last desperate throw of a generation of British planners who were distasteful of the traditional British towns and cities and had the political power and public money to fashion the environment to their will. Humans, they believed, would be more contented in settlements designed as architectural unities rather than by developing and enlarging existing villages, towns and cities.

While such idealism had its roots in the garden city movement of Raymond Unwin and others at the turn of the century, it flowered with the post-war new-town movement. An eagerness to force large numbers of people out of city centres, shared with authoritarianism in less democratic societies, led to the desertion and dereliction of many of Britain's inner cities and the spoliation of millions of acres of countryside.

From Crawley and Corby to Stalmersdale, Washington and Cumbernauld, new-town blues became a widespread syndrome. Residents, many moved compulsorily and callously, found themselves in single-class towns with poor services and a lack of the communal continuity vital to a humane neighbourhood. Planners disregarded the subtle gradation of relationships implied by extended families, neighbours and friends.

SING FOR VICTORY

Has the fire-breathing dragon of the valleys lost its singing voice? In anticipation of the Welsh rugby team's next fixture against France, an eminent soprano has been hired to lead the once fearsome terrace choirs of Cardiff Arms Park in the singing of the Welsh anthem, *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau* (*Land of My Fathers*). Poor results in the last year appear to have affected the supporters' larynxes and the Welsh Rugby Union wants Beverley Humphries to stop the rot.

Traditional rugby fans may feel that this takes the *fad* of "arena opera" one arena too far. The stadiums of the 1990 soccer world cup resounded to the strains of Pavarotti's voice; and Puccini recently made a high-scoring debut at Wembley, in the Royal Opera company's victorious match against Turandot.

The minstrels, warriors and lords of great Snowdon celebrated in the Welsh national anthem would surely hail the WRU's measure as a virtuous bid to revive the glories of the Welsh singing voice. Song has long been an expression of beleaguered nationhood in Wales, part of the country's moral and cultural fabric. Formal assemblies of bards, *eisteddfodau*, have been held in one form or another since the seventh century for the conferring of degrees upon musicians and poets.

Gerald of Wales, the 12th century chronicler, praised the precocious talents of the native singers he encountered in his native country and their taste for ambitious harmonies. "In their musical concerns they do not sing in unison, like the inhabitants of other countries, but in many different parts,"

and their juxtaposition with local institutions and services. The architect was god and history was the devil.

Milton Keynes was a final attempt to prove that this idealism could triumph over its critics. It was designed to be a suburban city, some 30 square miles of Buckinghamshire countryside devoted to 250,000 people, every one a car driver. Real care was shown for landscaping, collective services and "desire lines". On its own terms Milton Keynes has not failed, though its public architecture sadly coincided with the barren declining years of the Modern Movement, bequeathing the central area an awful frigidity and bleakness. But there is no reason why, over the coming decades, Milton Keynes should not prove more popular than the concrete monuments to working-class "decenting" of the north of England.

Disillusion with such towns today must not lead to a reactionary disillusion with town and country planning as such. The British landscape needs strategic planning if it is not to become a continuous suburban sprawl. Indeed the cardinal sin of the new towns concept lay in its abuse of both the old towns it neglected and the country it spoiled. The cities of Britain have ample space to meet demand for housing and commercial development, not least at a time of severe property recession. Infilling smaller towns and villages can supplement such demand.

But Britain's countryside, already more cramped than that of any other of the larger nations of Europe, must be safeguarded. Modern planning need not be Utopian to be emphatic. City dwellers and country dwellers have a like interest in protecting the rolling acres of rural Britain from another Milton Keynes.

he observed, "so that in a company of singers, which one very frequently meets in Wales, you will hear as many different parts and voices as there are performers".

The musical excellence of which Gerald spoke has taken the occasional knock. Elizabeth I, a Tudor queen of Welsh descent, had to intervene in the 1560s to save the *eisteddfodau* from the vagrant and idle persons naming themselves minstrels, rhydders, and barthes... lately grown into such an intolerable multitude.

By the second half of the 19th century, however, choral singing had established deep roots in the Nonconformist chapels and supplied a stirring soundtrack to the rise of Wales as a rugby-playing nation. It is this culture which the WRU is seeking to revive.

The union is also embarked on a different but related matter, hardly less important: the revival of Welsh rugby itself after the disasters of 1991. A three-month tour of Australia included an ignominious 63-6 defeat at the hands of the Wallabies, followed by a deplorable record in the world cup.

This state of affairs was bucked unexpectedly last Saturday when Wales defeated Ireland at Lansdowne Road, the team's first victory in the Five Nations Championship since 1989. Denied their national anthem by the Irish Rugby Union, the Welsh players delivered their own impromptu version of the song. It was this experience, they said, which roused them to victory. Given a stadium of lusty (and soon-to-be well trained) singers, who knows what sporting glories might once more lie ahead?

Standard fees for legal-aid work

From the Lord Chancellor

Sir, Your leader, "Price of justice" (January 22), recommended that I should submit the question of standard fees for legal-aid work in criminal cases in magistrates' courts for the consideration of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. Obviously the Royal Commission will consider this matter insofar as it may affect the subject of its remit. When it reports I shall consider its views with great interest. Meanwhile, Parliament has charged me with the responsibility for determining professional remuneration for legal aid.

You accept that the rising cost of legal aid must be brought under control. Standard fees will help to do this. Over the last five years, the number of cases dealt with under criminal legal aid in the magistrates' courts has risen by 19 per cent. The retail price index has risen by 33 per cent. The average payment per case has risen by 81 per cent. Costs cannot continue to increase at this rate.

The magistrates' courts hear over a million criminal cases a year (excluding summary motoring cases). Over 600,000 of these were legally aided in 1990. Most cases are short and relatively inexpensive. They are well suited to being paid on a standard basis.

Standard fees for relatively standard blocks of work are not a new approach for lawyers or for others doing professional work. They will still be related to the amount of work done, and will maintain overall the current level of expenditure on criminal legal aid in the magistrates' courts.

The level of these fees must be set to encourage a sufficient number of solicitors to do the work, and to allow them to do the work properly. Special provisions will apply for special cases and accordingly the scheme will not cover all the legally aided cases in the magistrates' courts.

These are matters which I am presently discussing with the Law Society and the Bar. These discussions are not yet completed. As your leader recognises, the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 significantly extended the availabil-

ity of legal advice. The Royal Commission's recommendations may well affect the work that defence lawyers are required to do, and in that event the fee structure may need to be changed.

In the meantime, standard fees will provide control over costs, long overdue, and bring benefits to solicitors by allowing quicker payments and a simplified system for these payments, with consequent benefits to their clients.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES MACKAY,
Lord Chancellor's Office,
House of Lords,
January 22.

From the President of the Law Society

Sir, I welcome your editorial. However, you suggest that solicitors' leaders had been privately expecting "not much beyond 4 per cent" by way of this year's increase in the legal-aid fees. In fact, we expect an increase which is at least sufficient to ensure that legal-aid practitioners' plight is not worsened. The estimate of the likely rise in solicitors' overheads over the next year is a little over 8 per cent. That should be the Lord Chancellor's starting point.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ELY, President,
The Law Society,
113 Chancery Lane, WC2,
January 22.

From Mr P. du P. Langrishe

Sir, I write as a solicitor who did not participate in the "strike" vote (report, January 22) but who does venture from time to time into the local criminal courts. My simplistic contribution to what is a very complicated debate is that, as a defence lawyer, I would not object to working under the handicap of a fixed fee if the prosecution were to be subjected to the same constraint.

Yours faithfully,
P. du P. LANGRISHE,
Symes Robinson & Lee (solicitors),
Manor Office, North Street,
Credition, Devon,
January 22.

EU report draws heavily from it. It is also influenced by SNCF's published assessments that other domestic routes would yield less successful return from investment.

We share M. Loubinoux's enthusiasm for the high-speed network serving Paris, Brussels, London, Cologne, Frankfurt and Amsterdam. We suggest, however, that marketing such an international network creates a new type of challenge. It is not self-evident that co-operation between national railways, all of which are presently accountable to their national governments, provides an ideal mechanism for meeting the challenge.

The three major railways involved, BR, DB (Germany) and SNCF have, for historical reasons, different fares policies and different operating systems and practices. Inter-railway negotiations would not seem to be a good basis for developing and driving an effective international marketing strategy.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID HOLLINGS (Director),
Account Marketing & Research Ltd.,
Gable House,
14-16 Turnham Green Terrace, W4.

Rail in Europe

From Mr David Hollings

Sir, As one of the joint authors of the Economic Intelligence Unit report on "European Railways - Prospects for the Long Distance Rail Services in the 1990s", I was very dismayed to see one of our conclusions described by M. J.-P. Loubinoux of French Railways as "total nonsense" (letter, January 14).

It is hardly a controversial conclusion that the substantial costs of investment in new lines capable of handling a frequent service of high-speed trains, travelling at speeds of 300kph or more, can be sustained only by attracting significant volumes of new passengers.

Volume growth on a large scale is likely to occur only in corridors between major cities and between points where the high-speed trains can provide travel times of not more than around three hours. There is only a limited number of such corridors within the EC and fewer of them are international.

Far from discounting the success achieved by the TGV Sud Est and Atlantic services, as implied by M. Loubinoux, the conclusion in the

Heritage block

From Mr David Bieda

Sir, Jocelyn Stevens's remarks about English Heritage blocking things (report, January 15), certainly rang a bell here, despite the qualifications in his letter (January 16).

This charity plans to complete a model scheme for environmental improvements in city conservation areas and to publicise the results nationally. We have received enthusiastic endorsement from the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Royal Town Planning Institute, the Civic Trust, local authorities and others, and substantial financial commitments from the private sector.

The London division of English Heritage was impressed and helpful

when first approached and offered modest financial support. It has, however, proved impossible to rouse any interest from English Heritage in the proposal as it affects historic areas outside London.

It seems that almost six years after the demise of the GLC and the takeover of its historic buildings responsibilities by English Heritage, there has still been no integration of the old GLC functions or even a proper definition of responsibilities within the merged organisation.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BIEDA (Chairman),
Seven Dials Monument
Company Limited,
1 Shors Gardens,
Seven Dials, WC2,
January 16.

Decade of Evangelism

From the Bishop of Doncaster and the Bishop of Lichfield

Sir, Clifford Longley's article, "The Decade of Evangelism was never going to work" (January 18), looks pessimistically at the work of the churches for Christian unity and evangelism. There is, however, another way of telling the same story.

It is possible to concentrate on the astonishing improvements in relationships which have taken place between Christians of different denominations; the growth of local co-operation in places where Christians often share together in the administration of baptism, offer each other eucharistic hospitality, share the gift of ministry, care for one another and, most importantly, serve the community together.

It is also possible to look at the Decade of Evangelism from an entirely different perspective. The decade has never been intended as a high-profile exercise; but more as a steady and consistent recovery of the priority of a faithful proclamation of the good news about Jesus in word and action.

It is misleading to suggest that the call for a Decade of Evangelism was

a patronising attempt on the part of the 1988 Lambeth Conference to reassure evangelicals. It arose rather out of the urgent concern of bishops from many other parts of the Anglican Communion; a concern from which we in this country have much to learn.

However, what is most strange in Clifford Longley's assessment is his assumption that renewal is somehow a third activity separable from evangelism and unity. The renewal of the visible life of the Church is a constant and never-ending process and will be until the end of time.

The impetus and insight for renewal comes from an understanding of holy scripture, from the Church's attempt through the centuries to live faithfully to the gospel, and from the insights of the contemporary world. In a constant interplay of these, under the power of the holy spirit, the Church is called to renew its life. In the very act of evangelism Christians are to listen before they speak. The holy spirit at work in the world is sometimes ahead of the Church.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Proposals for teaching art and music

From the President of the Royal Academy of Arts

Sir, To those practising artists who have chosen to spend part of their working lives teaching art to different age groups and had hoped to see the best practice of art education reflected in the curriculum, the National Curriculum Council's consultation report on art (details, January 14) must seem a retreat to an obscurantism invented by academics who view the practice of art with the deepest misgivings.

No one who has had the privilege of seeing the art room in almost any local authority school would fail to recognise the fertility of ideas and the brilliance of execution painted and pinned to the walls. For the report to weight the curriculum for seven to 11-year-olds with study of "the characteristics of art from different periods, styles and genres, including: classical, renaissance, impressionism, pop art, and identify the work of influential artists who exemplify these" must be misguided.

The most fruitful way of familiarising pupils with examples of art from the past is to show them illustrations side by side with their own paintings in an appropriate practical context. It is true that art can be learnt by imitation and has always been so; but to curtail children's opportunity to be creative, which is what they most enjoy, would seem to fly in the face both of tradition and present-day practice.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER de GREY, President,
Royal Academy of Arts,
Piccadilly, W1,
January 21.

From Mr John Steers

Sir, Simon Rattle's well publicised condemnation (report, January 17) of the National Curriculum Council's proposals for the teaching of music should not be allowed to obscure the fact that the council has advocated a similarly inappropriate emphasis on theory, rather than practice, for art for five to 14-year-olds.

Analysis of the NCC recommendations reveals that the council has retained virtually all the programmes of study detailed in Lord Renfrew's report; but to these have been added a further collection of programmes of study which detail specific knowledge, mainly of the history of art.

Considering the extra complexity of the NCC's proposals, it is difficult to understand why the council believes that its recommendations will "result in a coherent and manageable art curriculum". It is more likely that teachers — particularly non-specialist primary teachers — will find the NCC proposals very difficult to implement without a massive in-service education programme.

There is an obvious solution which may be acceptable to all concerned: the statutory order could easily be restructured on a three-part model which retains the NCC's attainment target 2 ("knowledge and understanding") and reverts to the attainment targets, "making" and "investigating", proposed in Lord Renfrew's report.

This would offer a more appropriate balance between theory and practice. It would continue to emphasise the importance of "process" in art and design teaching.

Breast-cancer drug trial

From Mrs A. Manson

Sir, The first reason given by the Secretary of the Medical Research Council (letter, January 16) against funding a proposed national trial of tamoxifen in the prevention of breast cancer is that healthy women, taking a daily tablet of the drug, would be reminded every day that they are at risk.

As one who is already taking part in a pilot trial, I would point out that having close relatives with the disease is a perpetual reminder and that taking the tablets is as nothing compared with the reassurance given by the regular and thorough screening which is also part of the trial.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES MANSON,
1 Clonmel Road, SW6.

learning and assessment, while satisfying those who have called for pupils to learn more about the history of art, craft and design.

Might not such a solution also serve to provide a better overall balance in the national curriculum between "knowing how" and "knowing that"?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STEERS,
(General Secretary),
National Society for Education in Art and Design,
The Gatehouse, Corsham Court,
Corsham, Wiltshire,
January 17.

From Mr Alan Gates

Sir, Richard Morrison's perceptive article "Classical culture", January 15) on the nonsense being talked about visual and performing arts in schools scores a bulls-eye. Unfortunately, however, the nonsense is now quite deeply inbred.

The Inner London Education Authority, obsessed as it was with race, gender and class, attracted to its service a large number of educators who still applaud and perpetuate such lunacy. For many of these, I suspect, the pursuit and exaggeration of all forms of cultural diversion helps to ensure advancement under the cloak of enlightenment.

As an ardent music-lover who teaches in one of the largest schools in the capital I am depressed by the fact that the school cannot even muster a quartet, let alone an orchestra or a choir. But yes, of course, we have a steel band!

In every activity, from technology to the humanities, teachers are encouraged to give "parity of esteem" (jargon for equality) to every kind of trivial or transient form of expression, lumping all noble and meaningless cultures into the same multi-ethnic bag. Paradoxically, all children suffer as a result of these muddled attitudes.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN GATES,
41 St Winifrede's Avenue, E12,
January 20.

From the General Secretary of NASUWT

Sir, Richard Morrison paints a false picture of the state of music and art teaching in schools in order to try and justify the recent proposals from the NCC. School children will not embrace the music and art of their own culture, let alone of different ones, by having information stuffed into their heads and being forced to sit passively listening to composers like Stravinsky.

The more practical approach of modern times has inspired a much greater interest in music and the arts than was the case in the supposed golden age to which government, and apparently Richard Morrison, wish to return. They ignore the mountain of evidence, witnessed by thousands of enthralled parents, of the high standards and variety of musical ability displayed by countless school orchestras up and down the land.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL de GRUCHY,
General Secretary, NASUWT
(The Career Teachers' Organisation),
5 King Street, Covent Garden, WC2,
January 17.

History of Europe

From Mr Frederic Delouche

Sir, *L'Histoire de l'Europe* is not "a curious EC-subsidised volume", as described in your leader, "History lessons" (January 20). Although we applied for a subsidy from the EC we received none.

Nor was it "originally conceived by socialist MEPs". It was conceived seven years ago by me, a private citizen (who is neither socialist nor an MEP) who believes that an understanding by Europeans of their shared history in promoting "institutions, customs and values", as you say, is a prerequisite to greater European integration.

It would be preferable for *The Times* to criticise the "fallacious grand theory" of "this dubious chronicle" after reading it. I hope that British readers will have a chance to decide for themselves if and when, which I hope will be soon, we find a British publisher.

Yours faithfully,
FREDERIC DELOUCHE,
12 Avenue Pierre 1 de Serbie,
75116 Paris.

Toujours la politesse?

From Mr Robin Ward

Sir, I call the waiter *Monsieur* or, if young, *Jeune homme* but never *garçon*. I call the doctor *Monsieur*, as do the nurses. I use a man's title the first time — *Monsieur le Maître* — after which it is simply *Monsieur*. I do not call the postperson *Monsieur* as she is a woman: I call her *Madame*. All other women I come in contact with are for me either *Mademoiselle* or *Madame*.

I am lost when I go to England. I have not heard the word *Sir* since the end of the second world war. What do I call the porter, the waiter, the ticket collector, the barman?

Yours truly,
ROBIN WARD,
Lou Casou,
Route du Mont Chauve,
06950 Falicon, France,
January 20.

Caught in pastel colours



Low-key confrontation: Le Phillips, Sian Phillips (centre) and Josie Lawrence in *Painting Churches*

THEATRE

Painting Churches Playhouse

WHEN I reviewed Tina Howe's play at Southampton last year, I accused the title of being misleading, suggesting as it does a pastoral trek with bike, water-colouring kit and copy of Pevsner. That now seems to me an errant judgment. The Churches in question are actually Boston Brahmins, a venerable poet, she his wayward, eccentric wife. Yet Howe depicts them as if they were ecclesiastical folkies, their antique stonework amiably decaying in the twilight. This is not a play with tension, momentum or, for that matter, plot. For those interested in sensitive, wispy-hued portraiture, it will serve pretty nicely.

In fact, the painter is the Churches' daughter Mag, who is preparing for her first New York show by capturing her parents on canvas. It is a low-key version of the kind of confrontation to be found in many American plays these days. Mag harbours residual grudges against her parents, especially her mother, who still cannot see her without criticising her hair, her arthritic friends and her failure to secure herself a society spouse. In turn, her mother feels that Mag is neglecting the two of them, especially her father, who is already into the dawn of his senility. But there is no great need to worry. They all love and respect each other really.

Howe doubtless reaches this comforting conclusion too easily. Yet she is laudably even-handed when it comes to adjudicating between the

generations. When Sian Phillips as Fanny launches casual insults at her daughter's work, or suddenly cackles in cranky amusement at her husband's worsening incontinence, Josie Lawrence's doughty Mag seems all too justified in accusing her of being "in a class of your own when it comes to humiliation". But a woman revealed to be singlehandedly looking after a man reduced to wearing nappies may be forgiven the odd burst of tactlessness or black humour. By the end it is the daughter, not the mother, who is looking self-indulgent.

At Southampton Rosemary Harris played Fanny, and proved more effective at suggesting the love she fundamentally felt for Frank Middlemas's blundering Gardner Church than at embodying the character's destructive gleam. Sian Phillips is tougher and more unpredictable, but only a little less devoted to what is now Leslie Phillips, with his many beard and creaky, under-oiled vowels. She leads the three-person cast with an authority and panache that seemed the more impressive for the very subdued first-

night audience unsmilingly facing them across the footlights. If there is a problem it is more with the play than with Patrick Sandford's production, but probably more with the Atlantic ocean than with either. Sweetly sad family plays that touch and amuse New York — and this one survived there for months and months — tend to find London a flintier habitat. *Painting Churches*, for all its delicate observation, may be in for an uncomfortable ride.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

CONCERT

European Women's Orchestra/Martinez

St John's, Smith Square

FROM the sound alone, it is possible to tell that an orchestra consists entirely of women? In the case of the European Women's Orchestra it undoubtedly is, although that may have much to do with the principles on which Odaline de la Martinez's orchestra is founded.

The EWO was established in 1990 with the intention of stimulating interest in women composers and suggesting alternatives to the gendered musical power structures of western musical life. The consequences for the actual sound they produce are fundamental. Their style of music-making is less glossy, less driven, more cooperative: communication is at a premium. It is a style that makes an eloquent case for the D major Piano Concerto of Mozart's contemporary Amalie-Julie Candeille, an engaging piece of no great pretension whose sensibility would easily be engulfed under more conventional performance conditions. Diana Ambache was the capable soloist.

Martinez's own Five Russian Songs, on texts by Marina Tsvetayeva, juxtaposed two distinct

idioms without convincingly integrating them: one nervous, tidily dissonant; the other folksy and almost sentimental. Only in the final song, "Tonight I Am Alone", was a mood of nostalgia and loneliness embodied with any real persuasiveness in either the vocal line or its accompaniment. Fiona Baines projected the texts with confidence and a warm, clear tone.

Rather less confident was the solo playing of the orchestra's leader, Ann Hooley, in the Elegy for Violin and Strings by Helen Glatz. Evidently influenced by Vaughan Williams and Kodaly, respectively Glatz's teacher and friend, the Elegy must have seemed even more old-fashioned in 1967, when it was written, than in our own less iconoclastic time. Yet it is a well-crafted piece and a moving tribute to a deceased colleague.

By contrast the final item, Lindsay Cooper's *Saxophone Concerto*, had a striking individuality, a presence, previously lacking. Cooper, who played the work herself, exploits jazz rhythms and electronics to telling effect: the long, slow, syncopated build-up in the second section is especially skilfully controlled. But it is the simple eloquence of the opening and closing sections that lodges in the memory: the plaintive tone of the soprano saxophone can rarely have been put to more expressive use.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Philip Glass

Festival Hall

THE atmosphere tingles with a huge audience's excited anticipation. The piano sits centre stage; the spotlights merge into an inviting pool ready to receive the master. Confidently, he strides on, looking slightly worn by middle age and overwork, yet still surrounded by an aura of enduring inner youth. His fans respond to his appearance with an almighty round of applause, and there is silence as the hero settles, brisk and business-like, on the piano stool. Philip Glass then begins his first piano recital in this country, and this critic is thrown into a state of appalled amazement that the man can sit there, make such boring music, and be adored.

Glass introduces each piece himself, and sometimes his remarks unintentionally touch the right spot. For instance, at one point he says that he felt uneasy at having to write music simultaneously for two films, one about a man falsely convicted for murder, the other a version of Kafka's *Metamorphosis*. But then, he went on, he realised that the two projects were not so different.

Perhaps for him nothing is very different from anything else. Cer-

tainly his *Metamorphoses*, written specifically for piano and derived from the music for those two films, rings changes in little but tonally. Like everything else in Glass's programme, its intricate oscillations and naive harmonic sequences are repeated and extended ad nauseam. The one attempt at climax, in the fourth piece, turns out to be a pitiful exercise in banality. Why not allow myself to be killed, like everyone else, by the silliness and quiescence of Glass's idiom and willingly admit my brain doing? I confess it nearly comes to that in *Animus Mundi*, thanks to Glass's deployment of a seductive triplet rhythm similar to the one which characterises Satie's *Gymnopédies*. But enough of my conscience remains to realise that around it the music is as bland and directionless as ever. The same applies to the "Fourth Kinet Play" from the opera *Kinet Play on the Beach* (a piece which Glass admitted he had misread), where the "mesmerising" rhythm of the filling arpeggio leads even the composer into a serious memory lapse. Of *Plains New*, written to accompany Allen Ginsberg's reading of his anti-Vietnam war poem *Wichita Vortex Sutra*, Glass says that when Ginsberg reads everyone forgets that there is any music at all. Quite.

STEPHEN PETTIT

Opera

La Ducha Madrid

DESPITE noisy competition from Barcelona and Seville, Madrid looks set to be unrivalled this year in its operatic enterprise, for the Teatro La Zarzuela's new production of Roberto Gerhard's single opera is only the first of three world premieres planned here for the season.

The Gerhard is a particularly bold and happy choice. Since his death 21 years ago — in Cambridge, where he had made his home after leaving Spain at the end of the civil war — his music has dropped into neglect, where his opera had been for 20 years before that, given no more than the desultory trial of a couple of concert performances. Perhaps it was too

much to hope that the score would turn out to be an unsuspected masterpiece, but this Madrid production certainly proves it has been shabbily treated. It is something quite of its own, with brilliance and vivacity layered on dark realism in a way that David Drew, the editor of the score, aptly describes as Goyaesque.

The work's quite particular character obviously owes much to Gerhard's quite particular background. Indeed, it contains his whole history: the fandango energy of the composer brought up in the Spanish national tradition, the almost constant brooding orchestral line of the 1920s Schoenberg pupil, and the English classic text. Sheridan's play of the Madrid resident, written in his more extraordinary than his capricious, though, is the way the colours are swirled together — the way the Hispanic rhythms filter into Schoenbergian mist, the way regular

tuneless songs, sometimes suggesting Broadway, cheerfully sustain themselves on hovering harmony.

In the first act it is not altogether clear that this skillfulness is working to any dramatic effect, but then the work suddenly touches base in an extraordinary father-son scene spoken over bleak, straight-gazing music in the thick black colours of clarinet and low strings. No, says Don Jeronimo to his offspring, it is not love that makes the world go round, but an unaltered vision of what is the case. This existential pessimism then seems to stay as the plot spins through its measures, so that the three couples — the two pairs of young lovers, and the scheming Ducha and grasping Don Isaac — are lined up almost despite the music's doctors. One understands what might have attracted Gerhard to the Sheridan: the possibility of an opera buffa played at in a mirror from another age.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Acts features, page 12

WEEKEND EVENTS

SCOTTISH OPERA: 1992 brings no let-up on Mozart as far as Scottish Opera is concerned. The company revives John Cox's 1988 production of *The Marriage of Figaro*, designed by John Byrne, restaged by Sally Day, and with Justin Brown in the pit (not Mark Wigglesworth as originally planned). The cast includes Jane Webster as the Countess, Claire Daniels as Susanna, Elizabeth McCormack as Cherubino, Robert Poulton as Figaro and Steven Page as Almaviva. Theatre Royal, Hope Street, Glasgow (041-332 9000), tomorrow, 2.15pm.

KEITHS: Nicholas Hytner's bright, clean production of Handel's *Xanxus* makes a triumphant return to the English National Opera repertoire, revived by Julia Halliday. A strong cast is headed by Ann Murray in the title role, with Yvonne Kenny as Rinaldo, and Norman Bailey as Anselmo, Ivor Bolton conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-659 3161), tonight, 7pm.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: An impressive list of soloists including Anne Sofie von Otter, John Mark Ainsley, Orla Boylston, Lynne Dawson, Jeffrey Biegel and Kurt Mascheron play in the LP's performance of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, conducted by Sir Mark Wigglesworth. Royal Albert Hall, London SW1 (071-659 3161), tomorrow, 7pm.

STRAUSS: A night of music in the British modern jazz scene, some of the early figures, present Stan Tracey is best known for his classic interpretations of Dylan Thomas in the recording *Under Milk Wood*. His latest solo features two of the finest post-war saxophone artists, Art Themen and Don Weir. A polished performance of

THEATRE GUIDE

BECKET: Reviving performances from Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay in *As You Like It* on the relationship between Thomas Becket and Henry II. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-300 8000) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 10.15pm.

THE CABINET MINISTER: Denis Nims and Maureen Lipman in a snobbish, largely unconvincing comedy. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-659 1115) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 10.15pm.

DANCING AT LUGHANASA: Brian Friel's Olivier Award-winning memory play, set in 1930s Donegal. Garrys, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-434 5055) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

DROWNINGS: Black humour and alcohol: first-rate performances by three actresses from Black Mine Theatre. Program, comic, evening. Young Vic Studio, 58 The Cyl, SE1 (071-632 8335) Mon-Sat, 8pm, 10.15pm.

A DYKUB FOR TWO PEOPLE: Bruce Meyer, Corinne Jaber play many ideas in this Yiddish tale of a man's spiritual, accomplished, intense. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW2 (071-732 9301) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LINKER: Sometimes don't look at the faces of a woman married to a soccer nut. Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (071-494 5073) Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm, 10.15pm.

THE GLOU CONCERT: Barry Foster as obsessed with being an Irish millionaire (Tony Delony) in the new play *Glou in the Midlands* by a powerful ballad. Almeida, Aldwych Street, N1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. 4pm.

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III: Nigel Harman's play is a bit of a stickler, but as a whole, Alan Bennett's play does not quite work.

WEEKEND EVENTS

GOLE: The Royal Ballet revives Peter Wright's production of one of the most famous ballets of the Romantic era. First produced at the Paris Opera in 1841, the ballet tells the story of Giselle, a gentle peasant girl driven to her death by the jealousy of her aristocratic lover. Tomorrow, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1065), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

LONDON CITY BALLET: The enterprising troupe continues its week in Christchurch presenting a program of music and dance. *Giselle* (as de), *Autumn* (as de) and *Peter Wright's* *Chorus*. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1065), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

EX CATHEDRA: This Birmingham-based choir and baroque orchestra bring a splendid programme of music written for the Royal Chapel at Versailles. There are excerpts from Joseph Haydn's early 18th-century opera *Zaide*, *Reine de Grandeur* as well as earlier works by Lully and Michel de Lalande. Jeffrey Skidmore directs. Royal Albert Hall, London SW1 (071-222 1061), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

FAITH HEALER: The Royal Court presents John Dowling's acclaimed production of Brian Friel's subtle and moving play about the artist, his gift and the strength of unspoken bonds between people. Donal Donnelly, Steven Cusack and Ron Cook play healer, wife and manager. Open tonight. Royal Court, St Martin's Lane, SW1 (071-730 1743), tonight, tomorrow, 8pm, mat. tomorrow, 4pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

BECKET: Reviving performances from Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay in *As You Like It* on the relationship between Thomas Becket and Henry II. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-300 8000) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 10.15pm.

THE CABINET MINISTER: Denis Nims and Maureen Lipman in a snobbish, largely unconvincing comedy. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-659 1115) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 10.15pm.

DANCING AT LUGHANASA: Brian Friel's Olivier Award-winning memory play, set in 1930s Donegal. Garrys, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-434 5055) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

DROWNINGS: Black humour and alcohol: first-rate performances by three actresses from Black Mine Theatre. Program, comic, evening. Young Vic Studio, 58 The Cyl, SE1 (071-632 8335) Mon-Sat, 8pm, 10.15pm.

A DYKUB FOR TWO PEOPLE: Bruce Meyer, Corinne Jaber play many ideas in this Yiddish tale of a man's spiritual, accomplished, intense. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW2 (071-732 9301) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LINKER: Sometimes don't look at the faces of a woman married to a soccer nut. Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (071-494 5073) Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm, 10.15pm.

THE GLOU CONCERT: Barry Foster as obsessed with being an Irish millionaire (Tony Delony) in the new play *Glou in the Midlands* by a powerful ballad. Almeida, Aldwych Street, N1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. 4pm.

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III: Nigel Harman's play is a bit of a stickler, but as a whole, Alan Bennett's play does not quite work.

THEATRE GUIDE

BECKET: Reviving performances from Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay in *As You Like It* on the relationship between Thomas Becket and Henry II. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-300 8000) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 10.15pm.

THE CABINET MINISTER: Denis Nims and Maureen Lipman in a snobbish, largely unconvincing comedy. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-659 1115) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 10.15pm.

DANCING AT LUGHANASA: Brian Friel's Olivier Award-winning memory play, set in 1930s Donegal. Garrys, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-434 5055) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

DROWNINGS: Black humour and alcohol: first-rate performances by three actresses from Black Mine Theatre. Program, comic, evening. Young Vic Studio, 58 The Cyl, SE1 (071-632 8335) Mon-Sat, 8pm, 10.15pm.

A DYKUB FOR TWO PEOPLE: Bruce Meyer, Corinne Jaber play many ideas in this Yiddish tale of a man's spiritual, accomplished, intense. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW2 (071-732 9301) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LINKER: Sometimes don't look at the faces of a woman married to a soccer nut. Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (071-494 5073) Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm, 10.15pm.

THE GLOU CONCERT: Barry Foster as obsessed with being an Irish millionaire (Tony Delony) in the new play *Glou in the Midlands* by a powerful ballad. Almeida, Aldwych Street, N1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. 4pm.

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III: Nigel Harman's play is a bit of a stickler, but as a whole, Alan Bennett's play does not quite work.

THEATRE GUIDE

BECKET: Reviving performances from Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay in *As You Like It* on the relationship between Thomas Becket and Henry II. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-300 8000) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 10.15pm.

THE CABINET MINISTER: Denis Nims and Maureen Lipman in a snobbish, largely unconvincing comedy. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-659 1115) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 10.15pm.

DANCING AT LUGHANASA: Brian Friel's Olivier Award-winning memory play, set in 1930s Donegal. Garrys, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-434 5055) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

DROWNINGS: Black humour and alcohol: first-rate performances by three actresses from Black Mine Theatre. Program, comic, evening. Young Vic Studio, 58 The Cyl, SE1 (071-632 8335) Mon-Sat, 8pm, 10.15pm.

A DYKUB FOR TWO PEOPLE: Bruce Meyer, Corinne Jaber play many ideas in this Yiddish tale of a man's spiritual, accomplished, intense. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW2 (071-732 9301) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LINKER: Sometimes don't look at the faces of a woman married to a soccer nut. Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (071-494 5073) Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm, 10.15pm.

THE GLOU CONCERT: Barry Foster as obsessed with being an Irish millionaire (Tony Delony) in the new play *Glou in the Midlands* by a powerful ballad. Almeida, Aldwych Street, N1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. 4pm.

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III: Nigel Harman's play is a bit of a stickler, but as a whole, Alan Bennett's play does not quite work.

THEATRE GUIDE

BECKET: Reviving performances from Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay in *As You Like It* on the relationship between Thomas Becket and Henry II. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-300 8000) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 10.15pm.

THE CABINET MINISTER: Denis Nims and Maureen Lipman in a snobbish, largely unconvincing comedy. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-659 1115) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 10.15pm.

DANCING AT LUGHANASA: Brian Friel's Olivier Award-winning memory play, set in 1930s Donegal. Garrys, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-434 5055) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

DROWNINGS: Black humour and alcohol: first-rate performances by three actresses from Black Mine Theatre. Program, comic, evening. Young Vic Studio, 58 The Cyl, SE1 (071-632 8335) Mon-Sat, 8pm, 10.15pm.

A DYKUB FOR TWO PEOPLE: Bruce Meyer, Corinne Jaber play many ideas in this Yiddish tale of a man's spiritual, accomplished, intense. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW2 (071-732 9301) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

AN EVENING WITH GARY LINKER: Sometimes don't look at the faces of a woman married to a soccer nut. Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (071-494 5073) Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm, 10.15pm.

THE GLOU CONCERT: Barry Foster as obsessed with being an Irish millionaire (Tony Delony) in the new play *Glou in the Midlands* by a powerful ballad. Almeida, Aldwych Street, N1 (071-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. 4pm.

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III: Nigel Harman's play is a bit of a stickler, but as a whole, Alan Bennett's play does not quite work.

NEW RELEASES

BLAME IT ON THE BELLS (12): Michael Caine in a dark, suspenseful, machine-like, old-fashioned farce. With Dudley Moore, Richard Griffiths, Peter Hoot, Winterbottom, Mark Hamill. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

DRIVING ME CRAZY (12): Arrogant but working-class sleigh-bell-wearing battle for supremacy on a cross-country journey. Stars, unconvincing comedy from John Hughes. With Ed O'Neill, Ewan McGregor. Cane: Baker Street (071-432 9772) Haymarket (071-432 1527).

THE JURY (12): Over the years, the contentious, elderly jury has three-hour drama about the Kennedy assassination. Kevin Costner as a leading D.A., Jim Gaffigan as a bustling supporting cast. Barber: Canon (071-257 7324) Canon: Fulham Road (071-370 2638) Empire (071-497 9959) Mollie Hill Canon (071-727 6756) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0331) Screen on the Green (071-252 3320) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

MA NUIT CHEZ MAUD (12): Eric Rohmer's serious but seductively moral tale, set in 1950s. With Jeanne Moreau, Yveline Auloy, Françoise Fabian: plus much witty talk about philosophy. Renoir (071-437 6408).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol @) on release across the country.

BILLY BATHGATE (18): Hero-worshipping kid John Duthie Schult's gang in 1930s New York. Muffed, disappointing version of E. L. Doctorow's 1969 best-selling novel. Starring Dustin Hoffman, Loren Dean: director, Robert Benton. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

COUPE DE VILLE (12): Three warring brothers travel cross-country in a 1954 Cadillac. Breezy blend of road movie, male bonding comedy, and 1950s nostalgia. With Patrick Dempsey, Arye Gross, Daniel Stern: director, Joe Roth. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

DELICATESSEN (12): French whizkids Jean-Pierre and Caro's wonderfully bizarre fantasy about a household of female beings living above a carnivorous butcher. Dominique Pinon, Marie-Laure Dougnac: director, Jean-Pierre Jeunet. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

FRANKIE AND JOHNNY (15): Short-story comic (Al Pacino) courts a wary waitress (Michelle Pfeiffer). Director, John Dahl. Cane: Baker Street (071-432 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2638) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0331) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol @) on release across the country.

BILLY BATHGATE (18): Hero-worshipping kid John Duthie Schult's gang in 1930s New York. Muffed, disappointing version of E. L. Doctorow's 1969 best-selling novel. Starring Dustin Hoffman, Loren Dean: director, Robert Benton. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

COUPE DE VILLE (12): Three warring brothers travel cross-country in a 1954 Cadillac. Breezy blend of road movie, male bonding comedy, and 1950s nostalgia. With Patrick Dempsey, Arye Gross, Daniel Stern: director, Joe Roth. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

DELICATESSEN (12): French whizkids Jean-Pierre and Caro's wonderfully bizarre fantasy about a household of female beings living above a carnivorous butcher. Dominique Pinon, Marie-Laure Dougnac: director, Jean-Pierre Jeunet. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

FRANKIE AND JOHNNY (15): Short-story comic (Al Pacino) courts a wary waitress (Michelle Pfeiffer). Director, John Dahl. Cane: Baker Street (071-432 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2638) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0331) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol @) on release across the country.

BILLY BATHGATE (18): Hero-worshipping kid John Duthie Schult's gang in 1930s New York. Muffed, disappointing version of E. L. Doctorow's 1969 best-selling novel. Starring Dustin Hoffman, Loren Dean: director, Robert Benton. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

COUPE DE VILLE (12): Three warring brothers travel cross-country in a 1954 Cadillac. Breezy blend of road movie, male bonding comedy, and 1950s nostalgia. With Patrick Dempsey, Arye Gross, Daniel Stern: director, Joe Roth. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

DELICATESSEN (12): French whizkids Jean-Pierre and Caro's wonderfully bizarre fantasy about a household of female beings living above a carnivorous butcher. Dominique Pinon, Marie-Laure Dougnac: director, Jean-Pierre Jeunet. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

FRANKIE AND JOHNNY (15): Short-story comic (Al Pacino) courts a wary waitress (Michelle Pfeiffer). Director, John Dahl. Cane: Baker Street (071-432 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2638) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0331) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol @) on release across the country.

BILLY BATHGATE (18): Hero-worshipping kid John Duthie Schult's gang in 1930s New York. Muffed, disappointing version of E. L. Doctorow's 1969 best-selling novel. Starring Dustin Hoffman, Loren Dean: director, Robert Benton. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

COUPE DE VILLE (12): Three warring brothers travel cross-country in a 1954 Cadillac. Breezy blend of road movie, male bonding comedy, and 1950s nostalgia. With Patrick Dempsey, Arye Gross, Daniel Stern: director, Joe Roth. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

DELICATESSEN (12): French whizkids Jean-Pierre and Caro's wonderfully bizarre fantasy about a household of female beings living above a carnivorous butcher. Dominique Pinon, Marie-Laure Dougnac: director, Jean-Pierre Jeunet. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

FRANKIE AND JOHNNY (15): Short-story comic (Al Pacino) courts a wary waitress (Michelle Pfeiffer). Director, John Dahl. Cane: Baker Street (071-432 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2638) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0331) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol @) on release across the country.

BILLY BATHGATE (18): Hero-worshipping kid John Duthie Schult's gang in 1930s New York. Muffed, disappointing version of E. L. Doctorow's 1969 best-selling novel. Starring Dustin Hoffman, Loren Dean: director, Robert Benton. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

COUPE DE VILLE (12): Three warring brothers travel cross-country in a 1954 Cadillac. Breezy blend of road movie, male bonding comedy, and 1950s nostalgia. With Patrick Dempsey, Arye Gross, Daniel Stern: director, Joe Roth. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

DELICATESSEN (12): French whizkids Jean-Pierre and Caro's wonderfully bizarre fantasy about a household of female beings living above a carnivorous butcher. Dominique Pinon, Marie-Laure Dougnac: director, Jean-Pierre Jeunet. Cane: Chelsea (071-352 5098) Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Decca: Kensington (0426 914628) West End (0426 914624) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

FRANKIE AND JOHNNY (15): Short-story comic (Al Pacino) courts a wary waitress (Michelle Pfeiffer). Director, John Dahl. Cane: Baker Street (071-432 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2638) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0331) Whiteley (071-792 3332).

THE TIMES BUSINESS

FRIDAY JANUARY 24 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

- BUSINESS NEWS 21-28
- YOUR OWN BUSINESS 29
- MOTORING 31
- SPORT 32-36

Dealers stunned as final dividend is cut and first interim is withheld

Lonrho reports 24% fall after market close

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

LONRHO, the international trading conglomerate, left the market in a state of "stunned amazement" when it delayed its 1991 profits announcement until after market hours and then revealed that pre-tax profits for the year had fallen by 24.1 per cent to £207 million, and that the final dividend was cut from 8p to 5p a share.

The group further shocked analysts with news that, "exceptionally, Lonrho will withhold the first interim dividend of 3p this year." The first interim is traditionally declared and paid at the same time as the final, so effectively the payment to shareholders is more than halved, from 11p a share to 5p.

Lonrho shares, which had risen 13p to 167p earlier in the day, when hopes were raised by news of the group's sale of its share in the Kühne & Nagel business, fell sharply after the 4.30pm announcement. In after hours trading, they were quoted at 115p — a fall of 39p — to test levels not seen since 1986.

The group's total 1991 payment at 13p a share compares with equivalent dividends totalling 15.7p for 1990, and will cost Lonrho £84 million. Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive, sees his dividend income on 92.1 million shares clipped by £2.76 million following the decision to cut the 1991 final.

He also suffers from Lonrho's decision to "withhold the first interim dividend of 3p this year" following the drop in pre-tax profits from £273 million to £207 million for the year to end-September. Net earnings turn out at 14.2p a share against 23.6p a share. Net asset value at September 30 was 204p a share (216p).

Analysts said they were stunned not only that the dividend was cut but also because the profits outcome was below forecasts.

During trading hours, Lonrho announced the sale of its 50 per cent stake in the German freight group Kühne & Nagel for DM340 million. The sale encouraged even the doubters and at one point Lonrho shares reached 167p, up 13p.

Lonrho's activities embrace gold and platinum

mining in Africa, printing British postage stamps and Polish passports, hotels in Mexico and several motor interests. The past year has seen the resignation of Sir Edward du Cann as chairman, and this month's surprise resignation of Terry Robinson, main board director, to join the Vesey group.

Mr Rowland yesterday said: "Your company has been less profitable during the financial year, with a weak second half. It is extremely unusual for your board to offer you disappointing results."

None the less, the profits announcement was made at the unusually late time of 4.30pm, after market hours in London and Johannesburg. The uncertainty about the dividend had kept analysts on tenterhooks throughout the day.

One analyst, however, said separate price sensitive announcements on the same day was not how you expect a major plc to behave.

In recent months, Lonrho shares have been a nervous market, partly because of the "tycoon factor", but also because of weaker metal prices and the concern about the impact of recession on the group's diverse consumer-related interests.

The shares have fallen from a 12-month high of 277p last April, and touched a four-year low of 142p on January 16.

Lonrho added that its current capital investment programme "is winding down", and certain development plans have been deferred. At the Metropole Hotel, London, phase three is not now going ahead because "the board is not satisfied that this is the best time".

Lonrho says it remains committed to Germany, has won a £14 million contract to print Polish passports, and that in Russia it now employs 500 people. Year-end gearing stood at 70 per cent and will fall to 60 per cent. "We are not dispirited," Lonrho added, "but we have to face up to the fact that there is a recession, and that life is difficult."



Pause for thought: Tiny Rowland reflects on Lonrho's disappointing results

Blockbuster wins in its £75m bid for Cityvision

BY MARTIN WALLER

BLOCKBUSTER, the American video rental group, has won its £75 million bid for Cityvision, the biggest British rental chain, after the defeat of an institutional revolt at Cityvision.

By the closing date, Blockbuster had acceptances for more than 50 per cent of the shares allowing the offer to go unconditional.

Three former executives of Cityvision, including David Quayle, founder of the B&Q DIY retail chain, had been attempting to lead a "management vote-in", with support from institutions holding 20 per cent of the shares, and to have existing management removed. Blockbuster's success with its bid will pre-empt this.

Ray Hipkin, one of the three, was philosophical. He said: "We're in the real world — business is business. It's gone and good luck to them."

The rebels are not now expected to contest the result and continue as dissident shareholders, but are likely to accept the bid in respect of their holdings. Mr Hipkin and his partner, Phillip Crane, who sold their video businesses to Cityvision during its swift growth in the late-Eighties, hold 350,000 shares between them.

There was relief and some surprise in the Cityvision camp. Existing directors of Cityvision are believed to have been badly rattled by the

support that Mr Hipkin and Mr Crane could draw on. Outsiders had not expected Blockbuster to clinch the bid at the first closing date.

The result is a victory for H Wayne Hutzenga, the American entrepreneur who founded Blockbuster after building Waste Management, his first business, into the world's biggest waste disposal group.

The rebels had intended to appoint two new non-executive directors, including Mr Quayle as chairman, to take share options at the 48p cash price on offer from Blockbuster and to sell Sunray, Mr Hipkin's 24-store video chain, to Cityvision at an independent valuation. They had been planning to challenge the existing board at a forthcoming extraordinary meeting.

Fayed brothers fail to prevent panel hearing

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THE Fayed brothers have failed to block disciplinary proceedings against them by the City takeover panel in connection with their acquisition of the House of Fraser stores group. Lord Justice Watkins rejected their application for a judicial review, saying their case was "unavailing". The Fayed brothers are considering an appeal.

David Oliver, QC, for Mohammed, Salah and Ali Fayed, argued that the disciplinary hearing should be adjourned until after the conclusion of a court action launched against the Fayed brothers by the House of Fraser, where Tiny Rowland is chief executive. Lonrho lost a 1985 takeover

battle for House of Fraser, which includes Harrods.

Mr Oliver said it would be "a travesty of justice" if the inquiry went ahead before the court case. Lonrho alleges fraud and claims damages for conspiracy and "unlawful interference with business" by the Fayed brothers and Kleinwort Benson, their financial advisers.

Dismissing the application with costs, Lord Justice Watkins said the takeover panel and the Fayed brothers were "in collision".

At the heart of the disciplinary hearing is the question of whether the Fayed brothers made statements about their wealth during the battle for House of Fraser that were misleading.

City downgrades Burton

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BURTON Group, the fashion retailer where Laurence Cooklin is chief executive, has been downgraded by analysts after shareholders were told at the annual meeting that sales in the first half of the year were only 1 per cent better than in the same period last year.

The figure includes a 5 per cent rise in Christmas sales, achieved by discounting prices and at some expense to the gross margin.

Burton's news was received with mixed feelings by retail analysts but led to a series of profit downgradings even by the more bullish followers of the stock. Paul Morris, of Goldman Sachs, cut his forecast for the year to end August from £22 million to £18 million. A buyer of Burton, he says any sales increase must be viewed positively. "Because Burton is so highly operationally geared, a 1 per cent movement on the sales line affects profits by £8 million," he said.

Kamilan Cook, of County NatWest, rates the shares a "sell" and cut her profit forecast heavily. Most of the City is looking for profits between £10 million and £15 million.



Cooklin: sales edge up

Food for thought at Christmas

BY OUR CITY STAFF

CHRISTMAS hampers and office cleaning are to be two businesses which are recession-proof, judging by figures announced yesterday. Park Foods and MITIE Group appear not only to be surviving the recession, but thriving on it.

Park Foods saw its share price jump 12.5 per cent to 483p yesterday on a bullish statement about its Christmas hamper business, while MITIE Group, the engineering, cleaning and maintenance company, is reaping the benefits as numerous companies, under pressure from the economic downturn, cut their own ancillary service operations and put them out for tender.

Park runs a scheme whereby customers subscribe a few pounds a week throughout the year and receive a Christmas hamper packed with goodies in December. When times are tough, customers find the enforced weekly saving of a small sum easier to accommo-

date than a one-off larger purchase. With the threat of redundancy looming over so many households, Park's customers know that at least Christmas will be assured.

The group sold 1.4 million hampers last Christmas, with the average spend per customer rising by 33 per cent. This has allowed Park to forecast an increase in the total dividend of 62 per cent in the current year. Peter Johnson, the group's chairman, who owns around 70 per cent of the company, will be entitled to £900,000 in dividends.

Park, which made a traditional first-half pre-tax loss of £4.39 million, is on course to make full-year profits of around £6 million in the current year, up from £3.99 million last time.

MITIE Group raised its pre-tax profits by 53 per cent to £726,000 in the six months to end-September. The company says organic growth was largely responsible for its 28 per cent advance in turnover to £22.2 million. The interim dividend is raised from 1p to 1.25p

per share, as earnings climb from 4.9p to 5.1p per share, on an enlarged share capital.

David Telling, MITIE's chief executive said: "In a recession a lot of companies cut ancillary services and put them out for tender; but you have to be competitive. We are increasing our order book in engineering, and more particularly in cleaning. On an annualised basis, we have picked up £7 or £8 million in cleaning orders, with a similar amount for engineering. We are feeling quite confident about the future."

MITIE is also expanding in Scotland, with the acquisition of Trident Maintenance Services, a Scottish commercial painting and decoration business, for up to £2.5 million. There is an initial payment of £400,000 for 58 per cent of Trident, to be satisfied by a vendor placing of 242,000 shares, at 165p per share. Trident made post-tax profits of £33,800 in the year to end-March 1991, with assets of £206,000.

Staff to be cut by 800 at Sun Alliance

BY NEIL BENNETT

SUN Alliance, Britain's largest composite insurance group, is shedding 800 jobs and closing more than a third of its branch network in an effort to reduce costs.

The company confirmed yesterday that it plans to reduce its staff by 6 per cent to 13,000 this year. This will include the 300 jobs that will be lost with the closure of 39 small branches over the next five months.

A spokeswoman confirmed that those closures will cause some redundancies, although Sun hopes to redeploy staff and encourage others to take early retirement. After the closures, Sun's non-life sales and customer service operations will be based at 50 branches.

The remainder of the cuts are expected to be made throughout the group's operations, including head office staff and management.

Sun's costs were £462 million in 1990. City analysts estimate that the group is trying to reduce expenses by £25 million. Last year, Sun shed 400 jobs by moving its personal insurance processing to a computerised centre at Oldham, Lancashire.

Sun said that the job losses and closures would have no impact on its profit and loss account this year, but that the benefits would begin to show in 1993. The group said the rationalisation was not linked with heavy losses in the insurance industry.

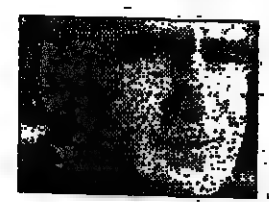
Kevin Phillips of Kleinwort Benson, estimates that the group lost £430 million last year due to heavy claims. Another £122 million of losses are expected this year. Sun's decision was denounced by the Banking Insurance and Finance Union, Bifu, which has 1,000 members at Sun, will meet the group's management soon.

The Confederation of British Industry has estimated there will be 30,000 jobs lost in the financial services industry this year.

Most of the main banks and insurance groups are being forced to make stringent cuts in their costs and are investing heavily in new technology to replace administrative staff. Bifu plans to lobby Parliament on the issue in March.

TODAY IN BUSINESS

WIDENING



Sir Sydney Lipworth, chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, expects it to take more interest in privatised companies. Page 23

INDEXING

The government is in the same position as a decade ago, with high interest rates and falling inflation. How can it best borrow money? Page 25

DISAPPOINTING



George Bush may be disappointed by German resistance to pressure for lower interest rates at this weekend's G7 meeting. Page 23

TOMORROW



Peter Jacobs, the chief executive of Bupa, may have an unremarkable appearance, but his strength lies in his ability to motivate a team. Carol Leonard discovers

COMPENSATING

Millions of pounds are earning less interest than they should in obsolete accounts. One investor has been compensated

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7977 (-0.0128)
German mark 2.8641 (-0.0019)
Exchange index 90.8 (-0.2)
Bank of England official base rate (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1963.5 (+1.7)
FT-SE 100 2525.3 (+3.3)
New York Dow Jones 3240.38 (-15.43)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 21580.72 (+46.60)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/8%
3-month interbank 10 1/8-10 3/4%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/8-10 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 4 1/4%
3-month Treasury bills 3 7/8-3 7/4%
30-year bonds 10 3/8-10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.7955 \$1.7955
£ DM2.8628 DM2.8628
£ Sfr2.5424 Sfr2.5424
£ FF9.7541 FF9.7541
£ Yen22.46 Yen22.46
£ Index30.6 Index30.6
ECU 0.712049 ECU 0.712049
£ ECU1.40449 £ ECU1.40449

London foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$355.55 PM \$355.20
close \$355.75 \$355.25 (£197.90-198.40)
New York: COMEX \$355.15 \$355.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb) ... \$18.10 bid (\$18.10)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.7 December (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

THE LIBRA PORTFOLIO SERVICE

A Balance of Skills for Private Investors

- Private portfolio management for investors with £50,000 or currency equivalent
- Asset Allocation determined by Rothschild Asset Management
- Investments made in the highest quality trusts in each market with no commitment to any fund management group
- A wide choice of investment options to suit differing investment objectives

For further information, please complete the form below or telephone (071) 634 2100

To: The Marketing Department,
Rothschild Asset Management Limited,
Five Arrows House, St. Swinburn's Lane,
London EC4A 3NR

Ref. ATT 001

Title: _____ Surname: _____ Initials: _____
Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Rothschild Asset Management Limited
Member of IMRO

*The value of portfolios can fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount invested.
In particular, there is a spread between the purchase and sale price of unit trusts.*

MMC will pay closer attention to utilities

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission is likely to play a much bigger role in the affairs of privatised companies, especially monopoly utilities, Sir Sydney Lipworth, the MMC chairman, said yesterday. The commission was entirely neutral about more references of privatised companies, "but we must expect disputes between companies and their regulators and we can arbitrate".

The commission does not, however, like to be seen as posing the threat of drastic action that overhangs privatised companies in their dealings with other regulators. Both BT and British Gas have recently agreed last-minute regulatory deals, with

Ofel and the Office of Fair Trading respectively. In the knowledge that they would otherwise have been referred for a more general review to the commission.

Hans Liesner, deputy chairman of the commission, said it could only recommend drastic action such as breaking up a business if that were seen as the best remedy for specific adverse effects of monopoly on the public interest. An MMC investigation, except where it was a non-binding arbitration, could also clear a company from criticism of its structure.

Introducing the MMC's annual report, Sir Sydney emphasised that the commission looked at each case on its merits without preconceived ideas. The only general threat posed by a monopolies commission reference was the amount of management time and company resources a big investigation tied up.

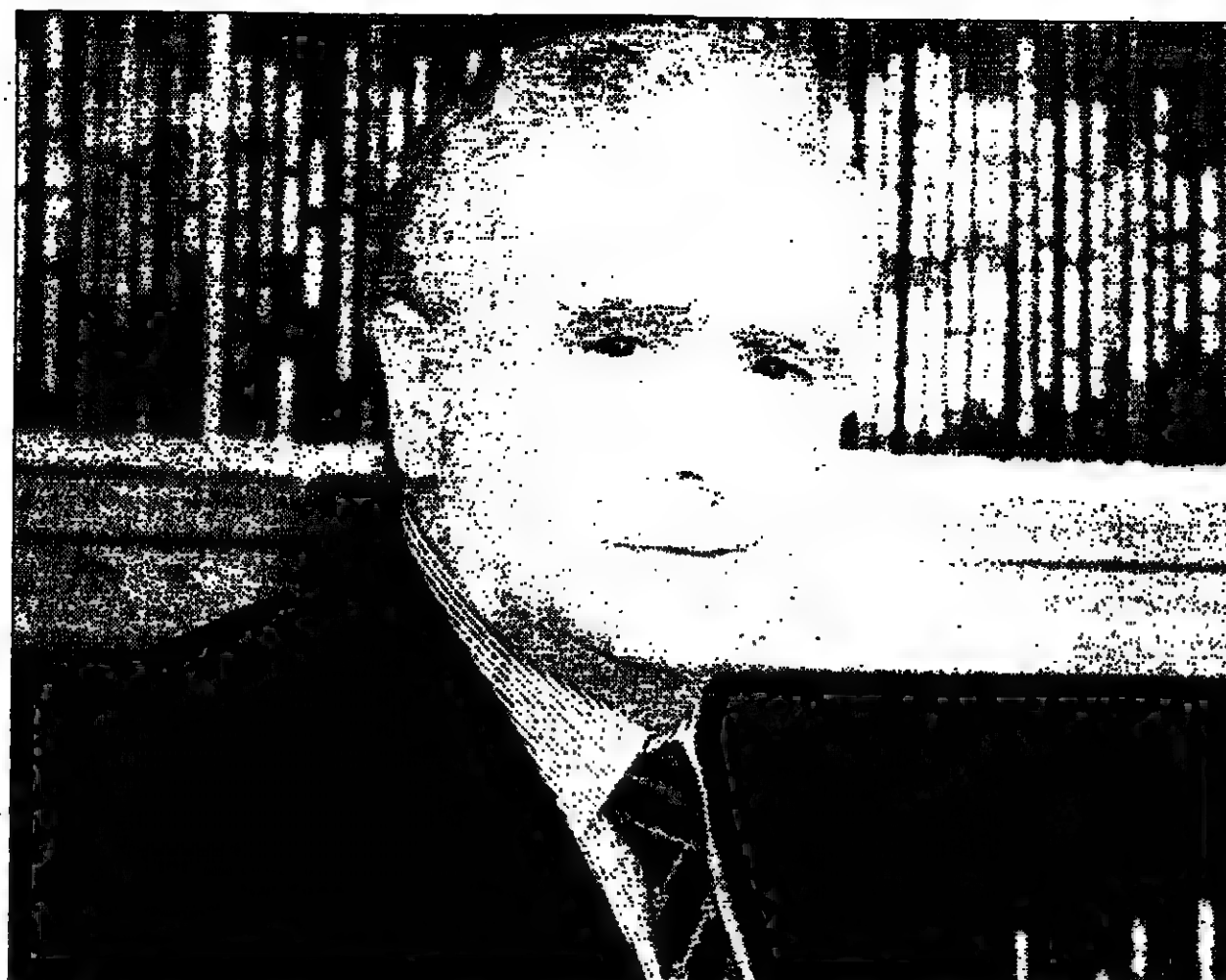
The end of the most recent takeover boom has led to a drastic fall in the commission's work on mergers. In 1991, it completed only seven reports on mergers, down from 27 in 1990. There were also fewer references because of new procedures that allow the companies to agree undertakings with the Office of Fair Trading to undo competition effects of mergers.

The fall in mergers work was, however, countered by six monopoly enquiries, of which five were industry-wide. The commission's biggest ever investigation, into the new car market, was completed on October 31 but has yet to be published by the trade department, which is also waiting to publish a linked report on car parts.

Other reports awaiting publication include an investigation into Solent ferry services, delivered in December, and reports on proposed mergers between Macarthy, the pharmaceutical distributor, and either UniChem or Lloyds' Chemist, both of which were completed last week. During 1991, 21 reports were published, down from 28, including the 300th, which cleared Nestlé's technical monopoly in instant coffee because there was plenty of competition.

Sir Sydney strongly defended the separation of the MMC from the OFT, which has been challenged by the Commons trade and industry select committee. "We have no axe to grind," he said. There were benefits in keeping the investigative process away from political pressures and avoiding conflicts of interest that could arise if the body that referred cases also investigated them.

The commission's work is already being questioned more via judicial review. Sir Sydney said this was bound to increase but judicial review should not be used as a form of appeal. Reports have been challenged in the courts in ten recent cases. In half, the MMC has won, three are pending and two are under appeal, in one case by the MMC itself.



No preconceived ideas: Sir Sydney says the commission will look at each case on its merits

Scott's Hospitality takes on Marriott franchise

By MATTHEW BOND

SCOTT'S Hospitality, the Canadian group that until last month ran almost half of Bass's Holiday Inn chain in Britain, has reached a new master franchise agreement with Marriott Corporation, the American hotel chain.

The agreement means that Marriott, which currently runs only 23 hotels outside America including two in Britain, will soon become a familiar name in the British hotel market.

Under the new agreement, 13 former Holiday Inns will switch to the Marriott brand, including the London hotels at Marble Arch and Swiss Cottage, and the Holiday Inn Glasgow.

Scott's, which owns and operates its hotels, parted company with Holiday Inns after it failed to secure a territorial franchise that would have given it control of the Holiday Inn brand in

Britain. At the time, Holiday Inns, which has 1,600 hotels around the world, said that such agreements were not company policy.

However, Marriott has proved more amenable and has granted Scott's exclusive franchises for two of its brands, the four-star Marriott Hotels and the three-star Courtyard by Marriott. A hotel nearing completion at Slough, Berkshire, will become the first Courtyard by Marriott outside America when it opens in March.

Jan Hubrecht, managing director of Scott's, said he was delighted with the deal and that Scott's would hope to open two hotels under the Marriott name every year for the next four or five years.

He said: "We are very pleased with the whole Marriott deal, because it gives us greater control over our own destiny." He was confident

that customers who had enjoyed staying with Scott's-run Holiday Inns would switch to Scott's-run Marriotts. "Once they try it, I am sure they will like it and stay with us."

Ed Fuller, managing director of Marriott Lodging, said: "Marriott has long said it desired a larger presence in Great Britain and we are delighted to have forged this alliance with Scott's Hotels, which shares our management philosophies, marketing focus and strong commitment to quality."

The deal with Scott's means initially there will be ten four-star Marriott Hotels in Britain, from Aberdeen to Bristol, with an 11th opening in Leeds next year. The number of Courtyard by Marriott should quickly rise to seven, although four, including the almost-finished hotel at Slough, are still in the process of construction.

Engineers' pay deals still fall

By DEREK HARRIS

PAY settlement levels continued their downward slide in the final quarter of last year, according to the Engineering Employers' Federation. December saw a drop in median levels to 4 per cent, less than half the level of the final quarter of 1990.

The trend to nil pay settlements, or deferred ones, continued during the quarter. The Federation monitored nearly 200 settlements in the beleaguered engineering sector and found nine where there will be no pay rises within the foreseeable future.

Five additional short-term deferrals emerged late, in addition to the 25 nil or deferred deals recorded in the quarterly figures.

In the third quarter of last year, the median level had been at 5 per cent, but in the final quarter the median — taking the three months together — had slipped to 4.93 per cent.

Car industry calls for help from Budget

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE Treasury has lost tax revenue worth £2.1 billion from the dramatic drop in car sales in the last two years.

Figures out last night show that the government has paid the price of its tough budget policies on the motor industry in sharply falling tax revenue, reflecting lost sales of almost a million vehicles since 1989.

The Retail Motor Industry Federation, which represents Britain's 13,000 motor dealers, said the losses outweighed gains derived from tax increases on company car drivers and other measures in the 1991 Budget.

Neil Marshall, the RMI's chief economist, said: "There is no doubt that the motor industry has been hit so hard that it has been unable to withstand the shock. The irony is that the Treasury too has suffered because of the huge impact in showroom sales."

In addition to VAT of 17.5 per cent, the Treasury levies a 10 per cent special tax on the price of a new car, the only purchase tax of its type in Europe, which can cost buyers about £800 on an ordinary family saloon.

However, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders has warned the Chancellor that the tax is a deterrent to buyers and must be abolished.

Sir Hal Miller, SMMT chief executive, said getting rid of the tax in the March 10 Budget could create an extra 175,000 sales this year.

Without a stimulus, there would be further job losses.

he said, as the market continued to contract and absorbed cars from Japanese "transplant" factories.

Nissan has invested an extra £200 million to lift capacity to more than 270,000 cars a year from its plant at Washington, Tyne & Wear, while Toyota, at Burnaston, near Derby, and Honda, at Swindon, Wiltshire, will start production this year.

Those three companies could add 500,000 cars a year to output from UK factories in three years, but Sir Hal questioned whether a stagnant British economy could stand the infusion of the extra cars.

He said: "We have to ask whether we are just transferring jobs from Dagenham to Derby? Our intention is that that should not happen and that there should be growth in the economy and in sales of motor vehicles."

Sir Hal and a team from the SMMT were meeting Malcolm Rifkind, transport secretary, last night to drive home their message that the motor industry needed help from the Budget next month. The SMMT is pressing for a wider price differential between petrol and diesel to encourage greater awareness of fuel use.

Although predicting a slight growth in car sales from this year's 1.6 million, the organization does not expect the market to top 1.75 million and even then growth is not predicted until the last quarter of the year.

Macarthy cuts payout

By MARTIN BARROW

MACARTHY, the pharmaceuticals retailer and manufacturer awaiting the outcome of a monopolies commission enquiry into two unsolicited bids, has reduced its total dividend from 12.5p a share to 10p, despite a 15 per cent rise in profits.

The company is recommending a final payment of 5p, down from last year's comparable 7.5p. In the 12 months to end-September, pre-tax profits rose from £4.6

million to £5.3 million and earnings from 11.6p a share to 13.8p. Ian Parsons, the chief executive, said the company sought to establish "an appropriate dividend cover base".

Macarthy shares fell 3p to 279p. Lloyds Chemists has said it will offer not less than 306p a share if clearance is granted by the MMC. UniChem may also bid again.

Times, page 24

Optimism lifts shares in Airtours

SHARES in Airtours, the holiday company, rose 7p to 903p on an upbeat trading statement from David Crossland, the chairman.

At the company's annual meeting yesterday, Mr Crossland told shareholders that sales in the first three months of the current financial year were up on the same period in the previous year. Winter and summer season order intake are more than 90 per cent higher than last year, which was adversely affected by the Gulf war.

The company said it is raising prices across its product range. Mr Crossland also reported that the company's airline will take delivery of three more aircraft in the spring, substantially increasing profitability.

Ransom rises

William Ransom & Son, the Hertfordshire manufacturing chemist, lifted pre-tax profits 6.8 per cent to £251,000 in the half year to end-September, despite stiff price competition, on sales of £3.17 million (£2.99 million). Earnings climbed from 1p to 1.16p per share. The interim dividend is maintained at 0.525p. The shares responded with a 6p rise to 43p.

Cook dives

DC Cook Holdings, the motor dealer and property developer, is paying an interim dividend of 0.2p (nil) despite sharply lower first-half profits. The USM-quoted company reported pre-tax profits of £107,000 in the half-year to end-October, against £350,000 last time. Earnings fell to 0.31p (1.15p) per share, with fully diluted earnings down to 0.33p (1.19p).

Scapa control

Scapa Group, the industrial fabrics maker, said it controlled 98.4 per cent of Scandiafelt, the Swedish firm. In November, Scapa made a 370 million kronor (£36 million) recommended bid for Scandiafelt, which makes fabrics for the pulp and paper industry.

Nestlé forecasts higher profits

FROM REUTERS IN SWITZERLAND

NESTLÉ, the Swiss food group, said consolidated sales rose 9 per cent to SwFr50.5 billion (£19.9 billion) in 1991, from SwFr46.3 billion the previous year. Profits for the year were also expected to be up. Turnover improved in all parts of the world except the Gulf region. Currency factors and several small acquisitions also boosted the sales figure.

Consolidated net profit in 1990 was SwFr2.27 billion. Nestlé said that despite lower purchasing power in some developing countries and economic difficulties in the industrialised world, growth in sales volume exceeded 4 per cent.

Consolidated sales and profits were expected to grow in the current business year, provided the economic environment did not greatly worsen and exchange rates vis-à-vis the Swiss franc did not alter dramatically.

Nestlé said it would announce 1991 profits and dividends after a board meeting on March 20.

The company sent out peace signals in its battle with Italy's Agnelli family for control of Source, Perrier, the French bottled water and cheese group.

On the fourth day of the Fr13.3 billion takeover fight, Reto Domeniconi, Nestlé's finance director, said Nestlé and the Agnelli could set aside their differences. "It seems to me that we could keep say 45 per cent (of Perrier's capital) and begin co-operation." The Agnelli and their allies control 49.3 per cent of Perrier.

Policies to help Bush win election find no favour

Bonn will defy US calls to ease

By COLIN NAREBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY is determined to resist American pressure to lower its monetary guard, officials in Bonn said. Washington will seek an easier German monetary policy as part of a coordinated strategy for growth when finance ministers and central bankers of the seven leading industrial countries (G7) meet on Long Island tomorrow.

President Bush has seen America stall again after a burst of renewed growth in 1991. He has been pressing Germany and Japan to act as locomotives for growth to ensure an American recovery in time for the presidential elections this year.

There is scant evidence that America is responding to lower interest rates and Washington has tried to prevent the dollar from appreciating. It fears that a stronger currency would suck in imports and throttle export growth.

Japan, under intense pressure during President Bush's recent visit, operated in close concert with Ameri-



Pöhl: call to resist

ca when the two countries' central banks conducted joint intervention to keep the dollar from rising against the yen. Tsutomu Hata, the Japanese finance minister, has nevertheless undermined the primacy of domestic economic conditions, indicating that there was no enthusiasm in Tokyo for policies mainly tailored to American needs.

German government officials said they saw "no grounds" for trying to influence currencies towards ex-

change-rate targets. Any suggestion of German interest rates being lowered to foster growth was dismissed. Domestic economic indicators made clear that a "totally different" interest-rate policy was required in Germany to that in other countries, one official said.

The G7 meeting on Long Island was requested by the Americans, who will chair the session, although the Germans hold the group's presidency. The gathering is expected to concentrate on the world economy and the situation in the former Soviet Union.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, is believed to be unenthusiastic about the meeting and is opposed to a return to policy coordination as practised in the mid-1980s.

Karl Otto Pöhl, former president of the Bundesbank, called on Germany to resist pressure to cut interest rates. "It will be a mistake (to capitulate)," he told a conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Herr Pöhl said any indication that the central bank was giving in to

pressure would damage confidence in the mark. The Bundesbank has been attacked at home and abroad for tightening its monetary policy.

However, Erik Hoffmeyer, chairman of the EC's committee of central bankers, has made clear that the Bundesbank enjoys strong support among central bankers.

Herr Pöhl said he could not imagine that German short-term money market interest rates, now at 9.95 per cent, could rise further. Neither, however, did he expect them to fall soon. While 4 per cent annual inflation might be acceptable elsewhere, it was not tolerable in Germany, he said. German banks' enthusiasm for supporting the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) appears to be drying up. Eberhard Martini, president of the German commercial banks association, said that, for the time being, the only way for the CIS to obtain new money from the banks would be via short-term trade credits.

Anyone who puts a Valentine's Day message in The Times must have a soft centre.



Declare your love with a Valentine's Day message in The Times.

And send your sweetheart a delicious 200g box of Thorntons' luxury chocolates.

A 3 line message with a gift will cost £24.00 (inclusive of VAT and postage). A 3 line message without a gift is £19.38 (inclusive of VAT).

Additional lines cost £6.46 each (inclusive of VAT). The minimum message is 3 lines with approximately 4 words to a line.

To take advantage of this tasty offer, complete the coupon or phone 071 481 4000 and prove that you're just a big softy at heart.

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel No. _____
Cheques Postal Orders should be made payable to: Times Newspapers Ltd. or debit my Visa/Amex/Diners/Access with the sum of £ ____
Card No. _____
Expiry Date _____ Today's Date _____
Write your message below (approximately 28 characters per line including spaces and punctuation). Minimum 3 lines.

Recipient's name and address _____

SEND THIS COUPON WITH YOUR REMITTANCE TO: SIMON GOLLAUD, THE TIMES, PO BOX 46, 1 VIRGINIA STREET, LONDON E1 9BL
ALL MESSAGES MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MONDAY 11.59 PM
ALL VALENTINE MESSAGES MUST BE PRE-PAID. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO OMIT AN ADVERTISEMENT AT OUR DISCRETION

STOCK MARKET

Learbo raised a few eyebrows in after-hours trading by cutting the final dividend and scrapping the first interim payment for the current year. The news coincided with a drop in full-year pre-tax profits from £273 million to a worse than expected £207 million. There had been speculation that a dividend cut was on the cards, but the news earlier in the day that the group had sold its 50 per cent stake in Germany's Kuehne and Nagel for £118 million eased some of those fears. Dealers took their irritation out on the share price, which fell 39p to 115p, after briefly touching 157p with

day. Strauss Turnbull, the stockbroker, has downgraded its forecast of pre-tax profits for 1992 by £19 million to £220 million and for next year by £15 million to £275 million. Strauss is worried that the Food and Drug Ad-

this week's profit upgradings by BZW. Jonathan de Passi, an analyst, spoke to the company on Wednesday and says it is firing on all cylinders. This has prompted him to increase his profit forecast by £10 million to £490 million

Ranks **Howis McDougall** fell 14p to 215p after a gloomy annual meeting. Sir Stanley Metcalfe, chairman, reiterated that conditions in the bread industry and in America remained difficult and would affect profitability.

MY Holdings firmed 1p to 39p after John Monks, chief executive of the USM-quoted board and plastics packaging group, told the annual meeting he was confident about continued recovery following better than expected first-quarter trading. Analysts forecast current year profits of between £1 million and £1.2 million, against £547,000 last time.

The Nikkei average rose 46.60 points, or 0.22 per cent, to 21,580.72, with about 250 million shares traded.

Waking to news of Wall Street's rebound and boosted by renewed bargain-hunting, the Nikkei opened 54.72 points above Wednesday's close of 21,534.12. Although the average briefly drifted into negative territory, it soon regained upward momentum, peaking at 21,794.37 in early afternoon.

Bynes and options-related charges against Zhao Ziyang, the reformist former Chinese premier, had been dropped, brokers said. An official Chinese denial came after the market closed. The Hang Seng index finished at a record 4,625.84, up 75.12 points, or 1.65 per cent from Wednesday.

- Singapore — The Straits Times Industrial index closed at 1,547.26, up 5.96 points.
- Sydney — The all ordinaries index rose 4 points to 1,635.5. (Reuters)

The Dow Jones industrial average was 1,566 points down at 3,254.25, up from a low of 3,244. Gaining shares had declining issues by four to three, while the Nasdaq posted a 1.5% gain, up more than 100 points, or 0.84 per cent, at 625.90.

TEMPUS

Anita Hibbert, at Smith New Court, one of the few London analysts still studying the company, is not dismissing a further cash-raising exercise before 1994, al-

Mouse guests: Frank Wells, Walt Disney president, and Minnie will be scrutinising turnstile numbers

Not only did Mr Johnson sell more hampers last Christmas, but his customers also spent, on average, 33 per cent more. Despite being only a month into the new year, Mr Johnson is bullish about Christmas 1992, orders for which are showing significant increases over last year, he says.

If Mr Johnson's optimism is justified, they are unlikely to fall much below this, and while some profit-taking is likely, they could well rise above £5. A five-for-one subdivision of the shares will enhance marketability.

Macarthy

LAST year will be best forgotten by Macarthy: its retail business slumped in the Gulf war and it was obliged to pay Nicholas Ward, a former chairman, £430,000 in compensation for loss of office. Then came unsolicited bids from three suitors and an acrimonious exchange with its main supplier.

The company has charged £3.12 million against defence costs as an extraordinary item, absorbing a large portion of pre-tax profits of £5.3 million for the year ended September.

Joanne Walton, an analyst at Lehman Brothers, estimates Macarthy could make profits of £5.8 million and earnings of 15.1p a share this year. This forecast, however, is almost academic, for the concern is unlikely to see out the year as an independent company.

Both Lloyds Chernists and UniChem have made significant acquisitions since their bids lapsed and may not retain as much appetite for MacCarthy. Thus, despite an enhanced earnings outlook, it would be unreasonable to expect Lloyds, the favourite and a 9.9 per cent shareholder, to go higher than last time's 306p, although a higher proportion of cash than the original 21p a share may be required. Whether Lloyds' own shareholders will agree is another matter.

Park Foods

CHRISTMAS cheer in the retail sector was as rare as snow in July, so it was no surprise that the market marked up Park Food shares 54p to 483p yesterday after a gleeful statement from Peter Johnson, chairman, about the company's trading during the festive season.

dividend will rise 20 per cent to 13p, a yield of 3.6 per cent, if Park achieves its forecast.

Apart for the surge in the interim dividend, the half-year figures are somewhat irrelevant. The loss before tax for the six months to end-September was £4.39 million, compared with a loss last time of £4.5 million. Turnover fell from £20.3 million to £15.7 million, partly because of business disposals.

Mr Johanson is confident that, when the recession ends, the group will continue to grow. The market is not yet mature, he says. Analysts are more sceptical.

Assuming full-year profits of about £6 million for the year to March 1992, the shares are trading on a price/earnings ratio of 12.4.

Ecu the likeliest candidate as common currency for former Soviet republics

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV



Teams from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are already in Kiev. A key question facing the republic's government and national bank, as well as those of Russia and other former Soviet republics, is whether to adopt a clearing system for trade between the republics, which are still heavily interdependent. Monopoly producers supply 30 to 40 per cent of the former Soviet Union's output.

"If the rouble and gryvna will not be freely convertible, we will need a clear-

ing mechanism to facilitate inter-republican transactions," said George Yurchyshyn, deputy director of the national bank. The most likely contender for the clearing system common currency at present is the ecu.

Mr Yurchyshyn, aged 51, is a western expert of Ukrainian origin who has returned to help develop the republic's financial and government institutions. Formerly a senior vice-president of Bank of Boston, he has been seconded to Kiev for a year from a Boston capital management firm.

Mr Yurchyshyn's role with the national bank will be in building up its foreign exchange division and strengthening its links with western banks and financial institutions. He joked: "I speak three languages: English, Ukrainian and money."

Directors of the national bank hope that formal membership of the IMF can be attained within six months. By that time, the government plans to have introduced a Ukrainian national currency, the hryvna.

pons, a "surrogate money" which, by next month, will replace the rouble for all transactions in the republic. The government has decided to allow workers to be paid in coupon cheques, increasing the danger that the coupons could become as inflation-prone as the rouble.

For Ukraine's 52 million people, independence was marred by a botched price liberalisation. Guaranteed profits of 25 per cent on goods sold has induced many shop managers, who lack knowledge of what a market is, to raise prices even further, pushing some basic supplies out of reach of the average citizen. Promises by the republic's president, Leon Kravchuk, to lower state-subsidised prices on goods such as milk and bread have yet to be implemented. Although 30 per cent of goods can still be bought for roubles, state shops sell products exclusively for coupons, which first went into wage packets in December.

Confusion over the coupons remains. General Vladislav Yurmakov, Ukraine's deputy economic minister, said: "No one really is going to be able to define the order."

[illegible]

RECENT ISSUES				
WTR Wanderer 1995/96	68	+1	Multisun Vertikal	5
Baileif Gifford Japan Wm	117	+2	River & Merc 11m 12up	10
Baileif Gifford Non-Voting B	423		do Speed Trip 12up	117
Blackfoot 1995/96	11	+20	do Speed Trip 12up	5
Burn Steved Dns 10p (140)	150		Simmons of Central Sp 50p	5
Burn Mining Warrants	2		Si Divide Zeno Div P 1000	106
Canada Treasury New C 100	1		Wills Group Warrants	5
European Gas 1991 Wm	260			
Fleming Japanese Wm	28		RIGHTS ISSUES	
Gold 1995/96	244		Airbank Leases Sp N/P 43p	11+4
Latin Amrc Inc & Co ELP	610		Banks Hunter 20p N/P	220
Lowell (R) Warrants	3		do Hunter 20p N/P	17
Lowell (R) Warrants	3		Northern Foods N/P 15p	120

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:			
Yorkshire Charm	575p (+15p)	Sotheby's	675p (+25p)
Hartstone	230p (+9p)	Wardrobe	480p (+30p)
Alvaston	440p (+19p)		
Cable & Wireless	550p (+15p)	FALLS:	
Capita Group	277p (+5p)	Eurochem Ltd	420p (-11p)
Chemring	800p (+30p)	Counters Text	413p (-9p)
Chelwood	880p (+15p)	Harwood Benson	220p (-12p)
Photo-Me	300p (+5p)	Standard General	411p (-3p)
Proutfoot Alex	380p (+12p)	Pearson	338p (-10p)
Ranger	450p (+10p)	Conna	115p (-3p)
		Robson	200p (-16p)
		Closed Prices:	Page 27

Gilts that promise safe passage for pensioners

Dryden Gilling-Smith calls for the issue of long-term, index-linked bonds, to the mutual benefit of both borrower and lender

Index-linked gilt-edged stocks were first issued in Britain just over ten years ago. In 1981, inflation was expected to fall and it made good sense for the Exchequer to borrow on a low index-linked interest coupon instead of locking into the historic high interest rates that were then having to be offered on new issues of conventional government bonds.

We are now in a parallel situation. If the Treasury believes its own inflation forecasts, it would be very much cheaper for the government to fund the growing public sector borrowing requirement by means of index-linked gilts — particularly in advance of the election.

Any issues of conventional gilts are bound to carry a political risk premium, which can be avoided by issuing index-linked gilts. Yet the last long-dated index-linked issue was more than five years ago, on December 21, 1986.

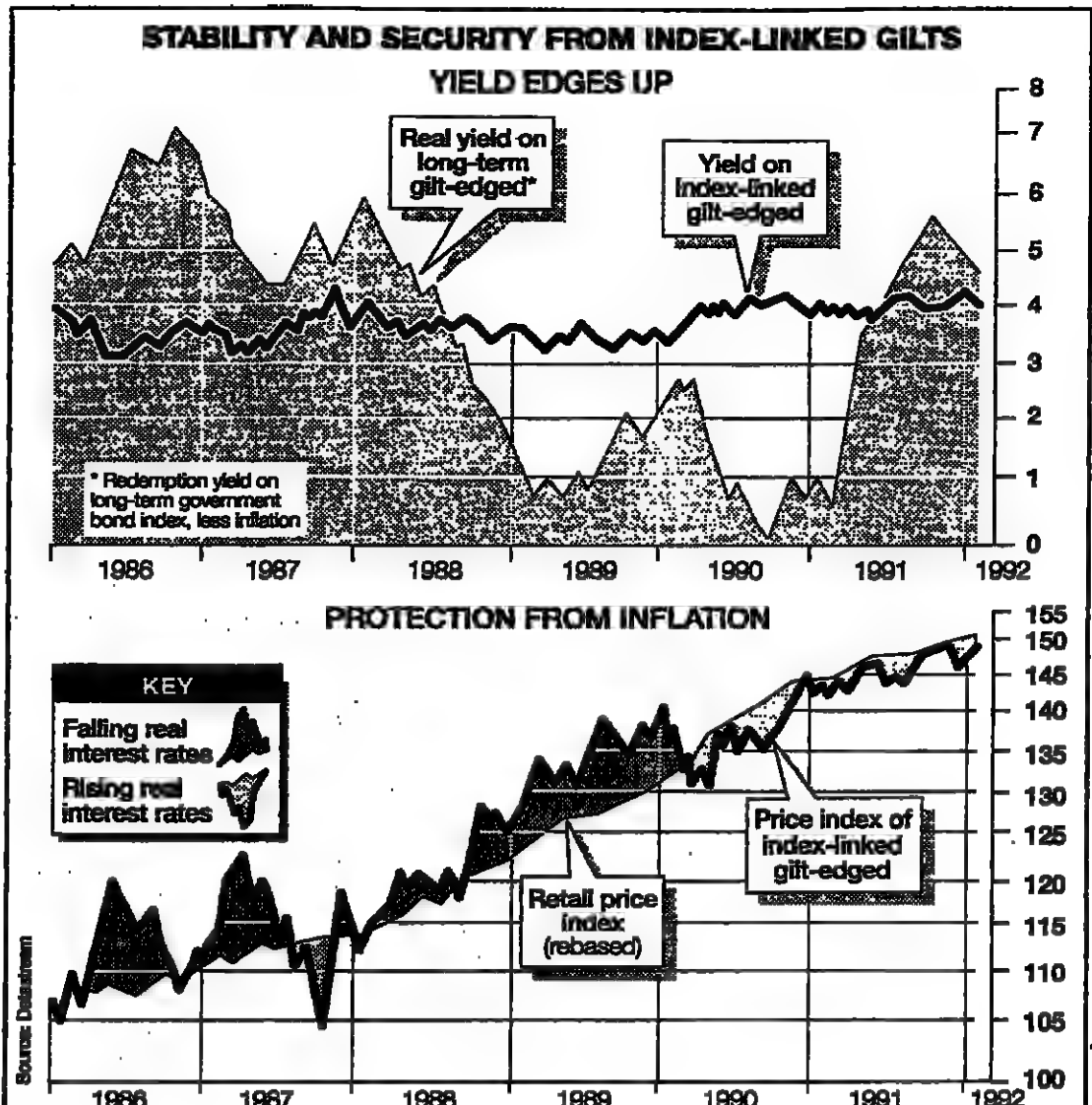
For much of that period admittedly, the government was, or balance, repaying debt rather than funding a deficit, so that relatively little stock of any kind needed to be issued. But it is surprising to note that the most recent issues have been conventional gilts with a redemption yield of around 9½ per cent when index-linked gilts are yielding around 4 per cent.

If inflation is set to fall to somewhere between zero and 4 per cent, one wonders why index-linked gilts are not being used as the main funding vehicle. Is it because the Treasury, in its heart of hearts, believes that Neil Kinnock will move into Number Ten and set Britain on course for South American style inflation?

Index-linked gilts also play an important part in the government's attempt to persuade employers to inflation-proof their occupational pensions. Public sector pensioners and their surviving spouses can retire in the secure knowledge that their pensions will be increased each year in line with the retail price index as an unfunded liability to be met by future taxpayers.

Prospects for inflation may look good in the immediate future but a man retiring now at 60, say, with a wife of 50 who might well survive to her 90s, is concerned with protection against inflation over the next 40 years or so.

Some private sector employers have been prepared to offer this kind of inflation protection. My mother, for example, who survived to 90-plus on an ICI widow's pension, benefited from such an enlightened policy. In practical terms, however, it is unreasonable to expect employers to pick up the tab for this inflation-proofing unless they are offered a suitable investment vehicle. This is



where index-linked gilts can play a key role.

When an employee retires, a pension fund can buy an index-linked annuity from several household-name life assurance groups, including Standard Life, Prudential, Pearl and Norwich Union, which can match their liabilities by investment in index-linked gilts.

At the date of an employee's retirement, therefore, the employer knows exactly how much he has to pay in order to provide an inflation-proof pension for the worker and his or her surviving spouse and can fund accordingly, as many employers already do.

If the employer is taken over by someone who wants to follow in Robert Maxwell's footsteps or goes into liquidation, the employee's pension rights are secure and protected.

The employer does not have to be a large company to offer this type of security of income in old age. Many small, self-administered pension plans offer the same security. An entrepreneur who sets up a small self-administered pension plan, of which he is the sole member, wants protection if he sells his business prior to retirement. The pension rights will normally be secured by means of an index-linked annuity.

Most insurance companies that issue index-linked annuities are,

however, obliged to set a cut-off point at the year 2024, the date when the longest-term index-linked gilt-edged stocks are redeemed.

The pensions industry desperately needs a big new issue of long-dated stock that can be taken up by insurance companies offering index-linked annuities and those large self-administered pension funds that wish to "immunise" their liabilities to provide inflation-proof pensions.

To provide for a surviving spouse who might benefit from a pension for 40 years, we will require an issue with a redemption date of at least 2032. Indeed, it would be better to make that 2040 in order to cater for the increasing number of centenarians who, thanks to improved medical care, are likely to require pensions in the 21st century and for those occasional spouses who are prepared to put up with earning partners that are more than ten years their senior.

If necessary, such an issue could be confined to tax-exempt approved pension funds and to insurers providing investment and annuity services. Sir Geoffrey Howe, who was Chancellor when index-linked gilts made their debut in 1981, originally favoured this formula. Restrictions were to counter vague official fears

about such a novelty, including the anxiety of Sir Gordon Richardson, then Governor of the Bank of England, that Opec governments would pile into any such issue, obliging the British government to offer them inflation protection for all time.

In the Eighties, when equities earned high rates of return, many investment managers tended to look down their noses at index-linked gilts. Now that dividend expectations are low the real rate of return guaranteed by index-linked gilts is attracting increased attention. They could be the best bet for a staple core portfolio for the Nineties.

Regardless of any merits of index-linked gilts as an investment for a growing pension fund portfolio, the most important immediate concern is to provide an adequate supply of new, long-dated issues needed for pension funds and their insurers to offer the necessary guarantees of income security in old age that has been the declared aim of government policy.

As more industries are privatised and as the burden of old age provision is privatised, private sector providers need to be given the tools to do the job.

The author is managing director of Employee Benefit Services Management, the actuary and consultant.

Shipyard deals put life into the Clyde

For more than three years the rusting "Tuxedo Princess", formerly the Stranraer-Larne ferry Caledonia Princess, has lain at anchor alongside Glasgow's Broomielaw. Used as a nightclub and restaurant until the venture recently folded, it is an ironic sight for Glaswegians who remember when the Clyde built some of the world's greatest liners and warships.

The upper Clyde basin, with its empty wharves and motionless cranes, remains a stark reminder of the Clyde's former maritime pre-eminence, but recently the river has witnessed a modest resurgence in shipbuilding, marked yesterday by the announcement that the Yarrow naval yard has won a vital order for three Type 23 frigates.

In December, the Norwegian-owned Kvaerner Govan yard on the south bank won a £200 million order for four 37,500-ton bulk chemical carriers, securing 1,700 jobs. The yard was saved from closure by the Norwegians in 1988.

Shipyard workers on the Clyde, or what was left of them, could be forgiven for their lack of morale over 20 years as yards closed and orders went to the Far East and continental Europe. Kvaerner Govan, however, saw off rivals for the order. Workers have been persuaded to drop the restrictive practices that made the yards uncompetitive. Absenteeism has become a forgotten habit.

In the Sixties, demarcation disputes were rife. European countries, and Japan and Korea, were building ships faster and more cheaply. In 1968, with Clyde yards collapsing, Upper Clyde Shipbuilders was formed. Despite £20 million from the Labour government the demarcation disputes continued. In 1970, the new Conservative government refused any more aid and the famous "work-in" followed, eventually leading to Govan Shipbuilders, an amalgam of three yards.

Yet by 1988 the Govan was tottering on the brink of collapse under British Shipbuilders, which had swallowed £2 billion of state aid since nationalisation and had seen the national workforce tumble from 32,000 to 6,000. Since the Norwegian takeover the workforce has remained steady.

There was further proof of the resurgence of the Clyde on Wednesday when Ferguson Shipbuilders of Port Glasgow launched the Star Pegasus, a £10 million supply vessel, commissioned by Star Offshore Services.

Yarrow, which has concentrated on military vessels since the late Sixties is now poised to enter the civilian market with a bid to build a 120-car ferry for Caledonian MacBrayne. Yarrow said the new order would secure its future. "We are expecting an upturn in the merchant fleet which means that with Kvaerner Govan secure and ourselves reasonably secure we have the capacity to take up anything that comes along," Mr Fyfe said.

KERRY GILL

£400m order, page 20

Lonrho dashes dividend hopes

Tiny Rowland will have fewer friends in the City this morning, even if his band of country followers stays loyal — not only because of the cut in the final dividend from 5p to 3p a share and the passing of the 3p first interim, but because of the unsatisfactory way Lonrho yesterday chose to make its public announcements.

The debate about whether Lonrho's final dividend would be safe has exercised analysts' minds for weeks, and the share price has suffered accordingly. The market was told, mid-morning that year-end results would be held back until 4.30 pm, which compounded the uncertainty. Then at noon, Lonrho made what was seen as an encouraging statement that it was selling its 50 per cent stake in Kühne & Nagel for a total cash consideration of DM340 million.

The market interpretation was that the final dividend for 1991 would, after all, be safe and there was short-lived comfort that perhaps all was not as bad as feared. That the 1991 pre-tax profits fell as much as they did, from £273 million to £207 million, was an added shock. Weaker metal prices and the recession were factors beyond Lonrho's control, as were the effects of the Gulf war that kept tourists at home and dented consumer spending.

In City-Lonrho relationships, few years have been good, but the past 12 months have been worse than usual. There was the resignation last August, for reasons unconnected with Lonrho, of Sir Edward du Cann, the chairman, and Terry Robinson has also gone. René Leclercq, the new chairman, might be "Mr Sugar" in the Indian Ocean, but is virtually unknown in the City.

Whoever finally takes over the dominant role at Lonrho that is currently the preserve of Tiny Rowland, the chief executive, has an unenviable task. Mr Rowland should ensure that his successor's task is made no more difficult than necessary by improving communications with the City.

Stags lose out

Judging from statistics, the government can look investors in the eye over its privatisation programme and might even hope for a thank you election time. A study by Peter Curwen and David Holmes in the latest National Westminster Bank quarterly review suggests that investors who bought £300 worth of shares on each of the 26 occasions the government has asked them to stump up since 1979 enjoyed a compound annual rate of return of 23.8 per cent up until the end of September. This comfortably outperformed investing in the all-share index, which showed an annual return below capital gains tax of 19.1 per cent.

Indeed, privatisation would have done much more for those who truly invested in the stocks, at a total presumed cost of £7,800, than for the smart folk who simply tried to make a quick return by taking £300 from the building society, selling the privatised stock on day one and putting the money back. Excluding the doomed 1987 BP sale and two tender issues, that would have generated a worthwhile average of £60 a time, amounting to £1,556 altogether, or £2,431 with reinvestment of the profits in a building society. In terms of return, that is pretty good, but it was no way to get rich, especially as allocations were low on some of the most staggable issues. In practice, most investors will not have done so well. Some of the best returns were on early issues, such as AB Ports, which were not aimed at a mass market, while, as the authors admit, the popular utility stocks have had a hard time since September as regulators bared their teeth and the election loomed.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

French flavour for Merrill

GIVEN that European equities are one of the few lucrative areas of expansion still open to UK securities firms, and that proficient European analysts and traders are now commanding premium prices, Merrill Lynch Europe, the British offshoot of the American company, has pulled off something of a coup. From next month, it will be fielding David Jones as its French equity analyst. Jones, who was previously joint director of research responsible for investment strategy at the securities subsidiary of Crédit Commercial de France, also once worked for Savory Milin and SG Warburg. For four of his five years at Warburg, Jones was the top-rated French analyst in the Euxel survey. His brief at Merrill will be to combine coverage of French equities with a specialisation in the services sector across Europe. Merrill, which makes markets in 150 European stocks — double the number of a year ago — has also been recruiting for its trading desk. James Blackburn has joined from Salomon Brothers, as a senior trader in Dutch equities, and Michael Nielsen, former Commerzbank and Deutschebank, will be joining its Frankfurt office in April as its head, and first, floor trader on the Frankfurt stock exchange.



"It's just that I would prefer some other consumer to lead the recovery."

men of the year for the Midlands region on Wednesday. In 1990, Smith, chief executive of Storm Group, the cartoon animation company, arrived in Moscow on business to find that British Midlands, whose chairman is Sir Michael, had lost his luggage before he boarded his flight at Heathrow. On his return four days later, his luggage was still missing, so Smith wrote to Sir Michael claiming £25,000 in compensation. Smith finally settled for £4,000 and six free tickets.

All in a name
OUR quest for a name for the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) goes on. Flippancy suggestions from readers include: BRUGES — Bureaucrats Rule Unless GATT is signed; BRUSSELS — Bureaucrats Stop Everybody's Local Subsidy; EMEROCK — Free Market Rules O (Common) K; SUBSTANCE — Subsidised

Trade A Naughty Common Extravagance: SUBJUGATE — Subsidies Just Go Against Trade. Everywhere, and NOFLU — No Free Lunch. A reader in Dorset suggests that since GATT "never happens", how about WAIT — World Agreement on International Trade, or WAIT FOR IT — World Agreement on International Trade Free of Restrictive and Improper Tariffs. A reader in Nottingham, suggests OWT — Organisation for World Trade, on the basis that you can't get OWT for NOWT (No Organisation for World Trade).

Animal evacuation

KELT Energy, the independent oil and gas company run by Hubert Perrodo, the polo playing companion of Prince Charles, has had its fair share of financial woes in the past. However, they may seem like nothing compared with a drama due to unfold next week. On Tuesday, an enquiry will begin into plans for a £30 million sour-gas-fired power station in the Vale of Pickering, North Yorkshire. Kel, which heads a consortium including BP, has hired Settrington House, home of Sir Michael Storey, chairman of Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers, to accommodate the hundreds of locals who are expected to voice their disapproval. Their vote aside, Kel can expect sparks from Robert Gibb, millionaire owner of the FlamingoLand Zoo. Gibb claims it would take days and cost up to £10 million to evacuate the elephants, giraffes and other inmates of his zoo in the event of an accident at the plant.

CAROL LEONARD

Lloyd's should return to basics

From Mr Jeremy Lyons

Sir, I feel the powers at Lloyd's and the writers of the Rowland Report have both lost themselves in complexity.

They must revert to fundamentals — that is the strength behind Lloyd's is the Society of Members.

It would appear that the report does not address the four main problems affecting this society of Members of Lloyd's today.

Firstly, increasing costs — which must be headed by self-regulation. If an outside government body were to regulate Lloyd's, the high cost of regulation would then not be borne solely by the Members, while at the same time they would have more confidence in such regulation, where conflicts of interest would no longer apply.

Secondly, with the vast number of open year syndicates, a large number of members are unable to resign/leave Lloyd's, even though this is exactly what

they may want. Some syndicates have implied that the attempt to close these syndicates is only half-hearted and that this situation will continue in order not to lose a large number of members, and therefore underwriting capacity, until corporate membership can be implemented.

Thirdly, even with the proposed stop loss provision, a profit ratio on average of say 15 per cent on deposit, in relation to a possible loss of 300 per cent of deposit (investment) is hardly an incentive for new members to invest.

And finally in order to encourage new members of Lloyd's — surely Lloyd's must be seen to be taking care of its existing members — something not apparently a recommendation of the working party report.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY N. M. LYONS,
Members' Writing Room,
Lloyd's of London,
1 Lime Street,
EC3.

Clear case for a regulatory body

From Major F. N. L. Chapman

Sir, Mr A Kinninmonth may be unduly optimistic (Business Letters, January 21). Should the suspicion grow that there are untrustworthy agents at Lloyd's and that members' agents, accountants and reinsurers are prospering at members' expense, whereas the members themselves are getting small returns, if any, for the risks they run, then it is inevitable that membership will decline much further.

Lloyd's is to remain viable, must be that the probability is one of profit. There seems to be a clear case for a regulatory body and a separate business board.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK L. CHAPMAN,
Underwriting member of Lloyd's.
Woodpeckers,
Golf Course Road,
Painswick,
Gloucestershire.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

Premiums share shrinking

From Mr Phillip Dinkel

Sir, Lloyd's share of world non-life direct and reinsurance premiums has shrunk from some 45 per cent earlier this century to 1.5 per cent today. Of this 1.5 per cent the risky element of ROL insurance has increased. In the last ten years, direct syndicate expenses and agents fees have increased fivefold. Is this why some 9,500 names (or more than the total Lloyd's community of only a few years ago) are now in dispute with the corporation?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP DINKEL,
4 Ravenna Road, SW15.

Rate disappoints

From Mr Simon Cooke

Sir, In the old days it used to be said that a typical bank manager would "fail" to tell his widowed customer that the £1,000 she had on current account ought really to be on a deposit account.

It appears that the wheel has now turned full circle. As clerk to my Parish Council I have made special efforts to put money on deposit in order that the council could earn as much interest as possible to help defray the parish's expenses. It was not until I recently enquired as to the rate of interest being paid that the awful truth dawned upon me. I am told that the parish's deposit account earns the princely rate of 1.5 per cent p.a. So much for the caring bank. I have little doubt that this goes for many trusts and other small funds throughout the country. Trustees and other guardians of such funds would be well advised to examine alternatives to their local bank.

Yours truly,
SIMON H. COOKE,
10 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2

THE TIMES CROSSWORD RANGE

From TIMES BOOKS

- The First Book of The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords by Barbara Hall NEW Price £4.50
- The Sunday Times Crosswords Book Ten by Barbara Hall NEW Price 4.99
- The Third Book of The Times Concise Crosswords by Margaret Webb NEW Price £4.50
- The Fourteenth Book of The Times Crosswords by John Grant NEW Price £4.50
- The Times Book of Jumbo Crosswords by Edmund Akenhead (Cryptic only, both books) Price £5.50
- The Second Book of The Times Jumbo Crosswords by Edmund Akenhead SECOND EDITION Price £5.50

From PENGUIN BOOKS

- The First Book of The Times Concise Crosswords by Margaret Webb Price £4.99
- The Second Book of The Times Concise Crosswords by Margaret Webb Price £4.99

Prices include UK Postage & Packing. Additional postage charges per item ex U.K. £1 Plus £1.50 (first item only) rest of world excluding EC. US Dollar cheques welcome. £1 surcharge.

I enclose cheque/postal order (delete as applicable) for £..... payable to Akom Limited, Times Crossword Account, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW

NAME..... ADDRESS.....
POSTCODE..... TELEPHONE.....
Please supply.....

Enquiries telephone 081-852 4575 (open weekends)

Jan 24

سکتا ہے اس کا

See shareholders

The Group's balance sheet is strong with shareholders' equity of £1.3 billion and cash balances of over £280 million, 87 per cent. of which is banked in Europe or the United States. Net borrowings remain at the level reported in the Interim Statement with gearing at 70 per cent.

Lonrho's current capital investment programme is winding down and borrowings will reduce during the year with a corresponding reduction in gearing. In addition, a selection of companies from the group of 800 will be carefully sold during what the Board sees as a year of good housekeeping.

By having the widest spread of assets in many countries, Lonrho hoped to avoid exposure to a recession in any particular economy or industry. The Gulf war brought world-wide economic consequences, bringing a strong decline to tourism, consumption, manufacturing, industry and oil. For example, the fall in precious metal prices accounts for nearly half of the reduction in Lonrho's profits in the second six months compared to last year and the rare industrial metal rhodium sold in 1990 at £2000 per ounce but is now £1000 per ounce. Your Company has been less profitable during the financial year, with a weak second half.



The new Lonrho House in Nairobi, Kenya.

Despite it all, the year end result was £207 million profit before tax against £273 million last year, and Lonrho remains soundly based to move back to its normal pattern of turnover and profit.

The production of platinum group metals and gold continues to be a major source of revenue for Lonrho, and 1991 saw another substantial uplift in production from the planned expansion at Western Platinum and Ashanti.

In Western Platinum, shareholders have, I believe, one of the world's great mines with a life of at least one hundred years, together with low-cost modern production methods. The sudden fall in platinum and rhodium prices is caused by world recession combined with destocking. The mining industry has weathered the effects of cyclical pricing time and time again.

At Ashanti in Ghana production is steadily increasing according to the programme which envisages a million ounces per annum in three years. Lonrho is in partnership with the Republic of Ghana in developing the Ashanti Mine and has enjoyed an exceptional degree of constructive support from the Government.

Across Africa, Lonrho maintains and improves its position as the largest food producer. The Company also raises beef cattle and ranches a total herd of



The new Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra, Ghana.

120,000 head. Unusually, the estates in Mozambique have to contend with unsettled local circumstances, and the Board offers its warm appreciation to those who continue to operate and produce with the knowledge of real physical risk. The Company employs over 10,000 field workers in Mozambique, and a uniformed and armed defence unit of 1,400 men. Peace is imminent in Mozambique and we will all be thankful to stand down the men who enabled the Company to continue its farming business and let them return to their normal work.

Across the world the Gulf war cut back both business and holiday travel and our hotels suffered a severe drop in occupancy during the year under review. In recent months the recovery has been gradual. Overall, our hotels are in excellent physical condition, and with small exceptions freehold and wholly-owned. Outstanding among them is the Acapulco Princess, which has no world competitor in size and quality. The new motorway from Mexico City is rapidly being completed and will give this remarkable hotel immeasurably better access from the capital.

In central London, £60 million has been invested in adding a modern complex of conference halls and two hundred new rooms to the Metropole Hotel. A third phase has received planning permission for an extension which would make the Metropole London's largest hotel in the under-supplied middle market, but the Board is not satisfied that this is the best time to go ahead.

The sale of Lonrho's fifty per cent. share in the German freight company Kühne & Nagel was announced on 23 January, 1992. Mr. Klaus Kühne has been a wonderful partner since Lonrho originally invested



Rock boring equipment - Karoo platinum mine.

Lonrho's balance sheet is strong

Cash balances exceed £280 million

R W Rowland, Chief Executive

The following text is taken from the Review of Operations for the year ended 30 September, 1991:

MINING & REFINING

The Group's three platinum mines have achieved a 25 per cent. improvement in production to 625,000 ounces of platinum group metals. Major extensions to the smelting complex, base metal refinery and precious metal refinery have been or are being completed, and concentrates produced by the newly acquired Karoo mine are now being treated at Western

Total gold production from Ashanti will increase to one million ounces a year by 1995/96. Gold production in Zimbabwe increased by over 4,000 ounces to exceed 164,000 ounces. Coal sales continued to increase reaching a new record of 5.3 million tonnes.

AGRICULTURE

Lonrho is the largest commercial food producer in Africa with sugar production being the major source of profits. In spite of reduced production in Swaziland and Mauritius due to



Gold bullion bars - Ashanti gold mine, Ghana.

1991 AT A GLANCE

	1991	1990
Turnover	£4,846m	£5,476m
Profit before tax	£207m	£273m
Profit attributable to shareholders	£92m	£148m
Earnings per share	14.2p	23.6p
Dividends per share	13.0p	15.7p
Cash balances	£283m	£355m

Turnover includes the Group's share of turnover of associates amounting to £1,846m (1990-£2,530m). A final dividend of 9p per share for the year to 30 September, 1991, will be paid on 6 April, 1992.

The eighty-third Annual General Meeting of Lonrho Plc will be held at The Barbican Hall, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London, EC2 on Thursday, 26 March, 1992 at 11.30 a.m.



New extension to the London Metropole Hotel, opened in October 1991.

Platinum. The shaft sinking programme at Karoo mine is nearing completion from which higher grade ore can be accessed.

Production from Western Platinum's new high capacity No 4 shaft has started and that mine's milling facilities will shortly be increased by a further one million tonnes of ore a year.

Eastern Platinum completed the extensions to its concentrator during the year, doubling its milling capacity to 2 million tonnes a year. Between the three mines, the Group will shortly be able to mill at a rate of 3 million tonnes of ore a year. Even at this rate, reserves are sufficient for a hundred years.

The Ashanti Goldfields Corporation (Ghana) achieved record production, revenue and profit. Gold output increased by 42 per cent. to 569,452 ounces compared with 400,757 ounces in 1990. The new Saseu Mine contributed over 169,000 ounces of the total declared gold production.

adverse climatic conditions, attributable sugar profits reached a record level due to the exceptional performance of our Malawi estates. Other contributory factors are the increased production of refined sugar in Swaziland and Mauritius and the expansion of the potato alcohol operation in South Africa.



Iveco trucks distributed by Lonrho in Angola.

In Kenya, Farmers Choice expanded its sugar production facilities with the opening of a new factory in January. This expansion has resulted in exports of sugar products to neighbouring countries in East Africa and the United Arab Emirates.

Tea, coffee and other major agricultural operations in Malawi had a poor year. LOMACO, the Group's cotton producer in Mozambique, was affected by persistent power cuts which, together with a severe drought, resulted in yields declining to a record low. 7,000 tonnes cotton crop was harvested from the Montepuez area in Cabo Delgado Province and farmers supplied an additional 4,000 tonnes.

LOMACO produced over 55 per cent. of Mozambique's total cotton crop and continues to be a major employer in the country. Very poor rains throughout Zimbabwe injured most of the agricultural operations. However, record production of waste extract was achieved.

Kalengwa Estates in Zambia had a disappointing year, although soya beans, wheat, onions, potatoes and tobacco have earned good profits.

HOTELS

The Metropole Hotel Group was affected by the Gulf war and the United Kingdom recession. The Group's prime area of business, conferences, continued to hold up well despite the recession and total conference revenue increased compared to the previous year.

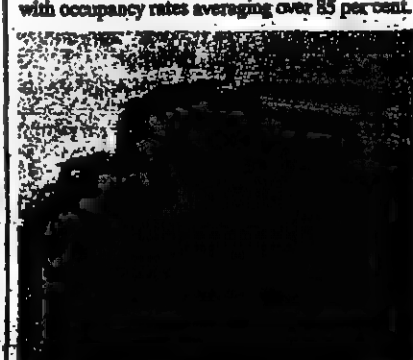
The first major extension to The London Metropole was completed adding 195 bedrooms and suites, major conference facilities and new high quality public areas. The new facilities make the hotel one of the top conference hotels in London.

The past year has been difficult for Princess Hotels. During the period leading up to and during the Gulf war, the level of bookings dropped dramatically. Cost savings will ensure that the Princess will be in a better position as the US economy moves out of recession.

In Kenya, guest numbers were only slightly down on the previous year. Both the Aberdare Country Club and the Mount Kenya Safari Club saw a sharp increase in bookings for both the international and Kenyan conference business as well as their regular tourist trade.

The new hotel in Accra, Ghana, the Labadi Beach Hotel opened in August.

The first year of operation of the Hotel Cardozo in Mozambique was highly successful, with occupancy rates averaging over 85 per cent.



Refurbished locomotive destined for Turkey - Krupp Lonrho.

MOTORS

One of the most visible signs of the recession in the British economy has been a steep decline in new vehicle sales. Under these circumstances the performance of the Volkswagen and Audi importing business held up well as a result of tight cost control, maintained market share and improved parts sales.

New models from Audi, the new Volkswagen van range and the arrival of the all new Golf in the Spring of 1992, coupled with the prospect of some improvement in the market have created an excellent outlook for this business.

In the Datsun-Forster Group measures have been taken to streamline operations to enable the Group to improve profitability and take advantage of a turn-around in the economy.

In Kenya the strength of the Mitsubishi, Toyota, Fiat and Hino franchises and the other market leaders, Massey Ferguson and Yanmar, ensured that the Motor Mart Group continued to be the leading company in the motor sector.

In Zambia the high demand for spare parts for Toyota, Land Rover and Volkswagen resulted in good profitability for these franchises.

In Angola the Group has recently acquired the Mercedes-Benz and Fiat franchises and has formed a new partnership with Toyota.

PRINTING & PUBLISHING

Excellent results were once again achieved at George Outram & Company, publishers of The Glasgow Herald, Evening Times and Scottish Farmer, in common with all media, advertising revenue fell sharply, however, this was offset by strong performances in other categories and a significant reduction in operating costs. Scottish & Universal Newspapers, publishers of one daily and twenty-five weekly titles, enjoyed another near record year.

Results for The Observer have improved, and a small increase was achieved in circulation. Appreciable savings were made in overheads which more than compensated for the downturn in advertising revenue.

Harrison & Sons, the high security printer and largest printer of stamps for the British Post Office, is now firmly established as a currency printer. The company has secured an order for printing Polish passports worth £14 million and the volume of travellers cheques printed has increased significantly.

OIL & GAS

The results of Hondo Oil & Gas Company were significantly affected by the volatile market reactions to the Gulf war and there was also a continuing trend of declining natural gas prices.

The company's exploration efforts were focused largely on the Permian Basin of Texas and on Magdalena Valley in Colombia, and its primary drilling focus for the forthcoming year will again be the Permian Basin. The company has entered into an agreement with Neste Oy,

Development well for oil and gas in the Middle Magdalena Valley, Colombia, South America - Hondo Oil & Gas.

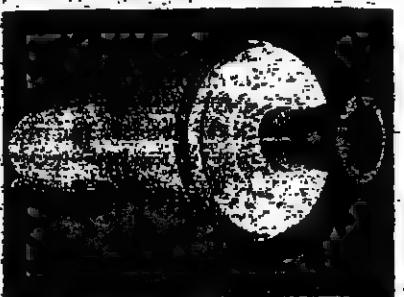
the Finnish National Oil Company, to participate in the company's drilling programme for the year ahead.

Hondo is now focusing on oil and gas exploration and production. As a result, the company has authorised its intention to cease operating the Fletcher Refinery and certain related assets.

ENGINEERING

W. Dalmer reported increased profits from the production of buses and trucks in Zimbabwe. Zambesi Coachworks produced a record number of buses, van bodies, tankers and trailers and reported significantly increased profits.

Petroleum Line, the 50 per cent. held joint venture with the Zimbabwe Government, was awarded a contract to construct and operate an oil distribution pipeline from Frikita to Harare.



Will shall commenced for KCI by Novell Danford, Mauritius.

Despite price reductions and intense competition Vixen paints in Zimbabwe recorded excellent performance.

In the Finzel Group Finzel Metal Products, Shear Pride and Charles Roberts increased their share of their markets.

John Holt's boat building factory in Nigeria sold 430 boats and 3,106 Yamaha outboard engines this year.

In South Africa Tullis Laundry and Engineering Supplies, the leading manufacturer of laundry and dry cleaning equipment, had an outstanding year.

TEXTILES

It has been a better year for Lonrho Textiles with sales and margins improved in both the retail and manufacturing divisions.

The David Whitehead Group experienced difficult trading conditions in the United Kingdom. Strong contributions were made by the women fabric, sewing, patchwork and quilting for overseas mills activities.



David Whitehead, Malawi.

David Whitehead in Malawi suffered following the removal of import controls. Large quantities of textiles were imported from the Far East which have put pressure on its volumes and prices. These indiscriminate imports have fortunately now been stopped.

David Whitehead in Zimbabwe sold over 11,000 tonnes of yarn, 274 million metres of cloth and 3.6 million pairs of socks in a record breaking year for the company.

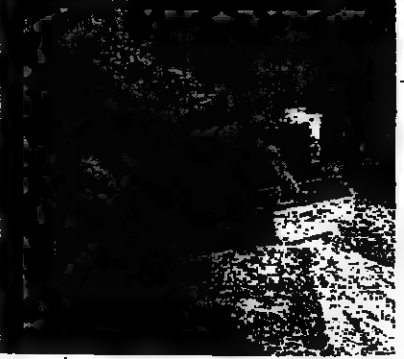
Cotton production in the Mambura area of Zambia exceeded expectations.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE & GENERAL

Krupp Lonrho has established several operations in Germany's new federal states and a joint venture company in Belorussia. Krupp Lonrho's steel export division supplied more than 1.6 million tonnes of steel to 65 countries.

In addition to the Group's joint venture, Lada-Lonrho, Lonrho has now opened an office in Moscow and is actively pursuing business throughout the Republics.

Lloyds broker F. E. Wright reported a substantial growth in profits in spite of fierce competition in a relatively soft market.



The new 285,000 cu.ft. 'Blue Ice' - the first of three refrigerated vessels commissioned by Krupp Lonrho.

Notwithstanding the severe recession in the United Kingdom construction industry Bernard Sumner & Sons improved operating profits in the year. Since the year end Lonrho has acquired Turfiff Construction which extends the Group's contracting activities to the Midlands and the North of England.

National Airways Corporation in South Africa continues to dominate the light aircraft market. Matrix Projects have become a strong force in the development and construction of large regional shopping centres in South Africa.

The text is taken from the Chief Executive's Statement and Review of Operations contained in the Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 September, 1991, which will be published in late February. Copies will be available from the Secretary, Lonrho Plc, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6BL.

LONRHO

Lonrho Plc, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6BL

Portfolios

DAILY DIVIDEND
£2,000
Claims required for +38 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

[illegible]

312	151	Burton	185	-	1	5.1	15.5
52	35	Bruford	50	...	0.8	2.28	...
353	219	Cop & Cammings	219	-	1	6.2	9.4
125	106	Cop & Reagle	111	...	0.9	11	...
325	190	Corduff Prop	203	...	2.4	1.6	33.3
640	400	Chesterfield	400	...	18.5	6.1	...
99	37	Chisone	37	...	...	...	...
60	37	Clarke Nickolls	40	...	0.7	2.5	56.2
47	22	Dayton	37	...	...	...	...
682	730	Deane	860	...	24.0	3.8	13.1
130	71	Deane Lumber	71	...	0.2	...	...
130	71	Deane Lumber 2 Yem	71	...	6.0	14.7	...
18	10	De Morgan	6	...	...	...	...
158	120	Demco	133	-	5	5.5	...
219	120	Demore Hides	523	...	8.2	2.1	...

40	14	Hat Units	22	...	2.3	...	14
75	80	Reicher King	34	...	2.3	...	14
378	279	Prognore	320	...	13.8	5.7	32
105	90	Granger	119	...	5.2	5.0	...
255	151	Or Portland	165	- 2	10.0	8.1	14
397	45	Grayson	71	+ 1	5.2	9.8	...
70	46	HK Land	70	+ 1	...	6.3	...

[illegible][illegible]

137	34	Truck	51	...	0.5	6.18	...
138	190	Truck	51	...	0.5	6.18	...
139	34	West Truck	...	...	11.2	6.7	...
140	190	Van	...	...	0.7	6.3	...
141	130	Van	...	...	0.7	6.3	...

TOBACCO

172	505	BAT	637	...	31.1	8.3	...
173	637	Robinson T 1080	...	...	18.5	2.6	...

TRANSPORT

905	167	Amc Baa	342	...	7.2	2.18	...
906	320	Amc Baa	556	...	13.0	3.19	...
907	320	Amc Baa	556	...	9.8	4.7	...
908	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
909	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
910	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
911	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
912	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
913	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
914	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
915	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
916	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
917	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
918	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
919	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
920	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
921	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
922	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
923	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
924	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
925	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
926	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
927	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
928	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
929	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
930	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
931	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
932	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
933	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
934	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
935	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
936	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
937	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
938	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
939	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
940	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
941	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
942	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
943	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
944	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
945	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
946	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
947	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
948	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
949	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
950	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
951	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
952	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
953	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
954	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
955	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
956	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
957	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
958	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
959	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
960	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
961	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
962	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
963	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
964	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
965	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
966	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
967	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
968	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
969	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
970	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
971	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
972	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
973	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
974	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
975	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
976	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
977	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
978	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
979	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
980	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
981	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
982	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
983	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
984	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
985	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
986	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
987	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
988	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
989	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
990	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
991	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
992	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
993	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
994	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
995	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
996	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
997	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
998	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
999	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...
1000	537	Clarkson Ltd	163	...	8.0	6.3	...

Price

404	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
405	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
406	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
407	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
408	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
409	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
410	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
411	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
412	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
413	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
414	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
415	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
416	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
417	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
418	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
419	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
420	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
421	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
422	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
423	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
424	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
425	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
426	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
427	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
428	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
429	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
430	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
431	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
432	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
433	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
434	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
435	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
436	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
437	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
438	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
439	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
440	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
441	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
442	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
443	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
444	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
445	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
446	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
447	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
448	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
449	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
450	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
451	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
452	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
453	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
454	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
455	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
456	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
457	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
458	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
459	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
460	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
461	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
462	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
463	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
464	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
465	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
466	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
467	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
468	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
469	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
470	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
471	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
472	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
473	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
474	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
475	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
476	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
477	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
478	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
479	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
480	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
481	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
482	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
483	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
484	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
485	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
486	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
487	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
488	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
489	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
490	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
491	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
492	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
493	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
494	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
495	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
496	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
497	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8	0.9	7
498	327	Anglo Van	343	...	1.8		

rs
ke
un
al
k
-
p
-
+
d
-
-
e
r
e
r
e
i

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

FT-SE 100 VALUES									
Abbey Natl	1,500	Comau	1,000	MEPC	137	Sainsbury	3,700	Shell	1,500
ABN-Lloyds	1,500	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
Anglian W	600	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
Ampl-Gro	3,800	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
Arm Wagon	768	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
BAA	598	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
BAT Inds	1,400	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
BIC	759	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
BP	2,000	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
BT	6,700	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
BTI	3,600	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
Blue Circle	1,100	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
British	1,100	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
Brit Airways	2,400	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
Brit Gas	8,700	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
Brit Tele	1,400	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
Cable Wire	2,400	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500
C&I Union	1,100	Enfero	40	Marc Sp	1,000	Scott & New	1,500	Shell	1,500

MAJOR INDICES									
New York (midday)		Dow Jones	2240.38 (-15.43)	Brussels		General	5882.17 (+33.52)	FT-SE 100	
S&P Composite			-416.24 (-1.89)	Paris		Cac	498.74 (-2.63)	Previous open interest: 36399	
Tokyo		Nikkei 225	21580.72 (+46.60)	Zurich		Swiss	469.4 (-4.2)	Three Month Sterling	
Hong Kong		Hang Seng	4625.84 (+75.12)	London		FTSE 100	2560.00	Previous open interest: 21460	
FT-SE Euro 100			131.98 (-2.09)	Amsterdam		AEX	100.16	Previous open interest: 4341	
Amsterdam		AEX	100.16	Sydney		ASX 100	100.16	Previous open interest: 55199	
Sydney		ASX 100	100.16	Frankfurt		DAX	100.16	Previous open interest: 20248	

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS											
Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put
100	55	70	35	52	100	55	70	35	100	55	70
200	55	70	35	52	200	55	70	35	200	55	70
300	55	70	35	52	300	55	70	35	300	55	70
400	55	70	35	52	400	55	70	35	400	55	70
500	55	70	35	52	500	55	70	35	500	55	70
600	55	70	35	52	600	55	70	35	600	55	70
700	55	70	35	52	700	55	70	35	700	55	70
800	55	70	35	52	800	55	70	35	800	55	70
900	55	70	35	52	900	55	70	35	900	55	70
1000	55	70	35	52	1000	55	70	35	1000	55	70

COMMODITIES									
Aluminum	280	14	16	16	Aluminum	280	14	16	16
Asphalt	25	4	3	6	Asphalt	25	4	3	6
Barley	30	1	2	1	Barley	30	1	2	1
Benzene	30	1	2	1	Benzene	30	1	2	1
Butane	30	1	2	1	Butane	30	1	2	1
Crude Oil	240	15	30	7	Crude Oil	240	15	30	7
Gasoline	240	15	30	7	Gasoline	240	15	30	7
Heating Oil	2				Heating Oil	2			

OTHER STERLING RATES									
Argentina austral	1,782.1-7850	Australia	1,338.8-1399						
Australia dollar	2,409.2-2430	Austria	11.88-12.1						
Bahrain dinar	0.6765-0.6845	Belgium (Coon)	32.75-32.77						
Bahian cruzeiro	272.6-272.9	Canada	1.541-1.542						
Cypriot pound	0.505-0.515	Denmark	6.1700-6.1701						
Indian rupee	7.7525-7.8425	France	4.8250-4.8300						
Green drachma	330-332.10	Germany	2.48-2.49						
Hong Kong dollar	13.9664-13.9791	Hong Kong	1.7770-1.7780						
Indonesian rupiah	197.5-197.6	Italy	1.6710-1.6720						
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5185-0.5245	Japan	122.90-124.00						
Malaysian ringgit	4.8177-4.8222	Malaysia	1.6598-1.6600						
Maltese lira	1.366-1.367	Netherlands	2.20-2.21						
New Zealand dollar	3.2120-3.2130	Norway	3.600-3.6250						
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.7275-6.8075	Portugal	136.35-137.00						
Sri Lanka rupee	7.7525-7.8425	Spain	1.6520-1.6530						
S' Africa rand (rand)	4.9895-5.0099	Sweden	100.32-100.42						
Sri Lanka rupee	7.7525-7.8425	Switzerland	5.7870-5.7920						
Swedish krona	4.9895-5.0099	Switzerland	1.4128-1.4133						
Swiss franc	1.782-1.785								

DOLLAR SPOT RATES									
Argentina austral	1,782.1-7850	Australia	1,338.8-1399						
Australia dollar	2,409.2-2430	Austria	11.88-12.1						
Bahrain dinar	0.6765-0.6845	Belgium (Coon)	32.75-32.77						
Bahian cruzeiro	272.6-272.9	Canada	1.541-1.542						
Cypriot pound	0.505-0.515	Denmark	6.1700-6.1701						
Indian rupee	7.7525-7.8425	France	4.8250-4.8300						
Green drachma	330-332.10	Germany	2.48-2.49						
Hong Kong dollar	13.9664-13.9791	Hong Kong	1.7770-1.7780						
Indonesian rupiah	197.5-197.6	Italy	1.6710-1.6720						
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5185-0.5245	Japan	122.90-124.00						
Malaysian ringgit	4.8177-4.8222	Malaysia	1.6598-1.6600						
Maltese lira	1.366-1.367	Netherlands	2.20-2.21						
New Zealand dollar	3.2120-3.2130	Norway	3.600-3.6250						
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.7275-6.8075	Portugal	136.35-137.00						
Sri Lanka rupee	7.7525-7.8425	Spain	1.6520-1.6530						
S' Africa rand (rand)	4.9895-5.0099	Sweden	100.32-100.42						
Sri Lanka rupee	7.7525-7.8425	Switzerland	5.7870-5.7920						
Swedish krona	4.9895-5.0099	Switzerland	1.4128-1.4133						
Swiss franc	1.782-1.785								

MONEY RATES (%)									
Base Rate Clearing Banks 10%	Finance Hse 11%	Discount Market Loan 10%	Overnight bank 10%	12 mo 9%	Week finish 10%				
Treasury Bills (60-Day) 2 1/2	10 1/4	3 mo 10 1/4	6 mo 10 1/4	9 mo 10 1/4	12 mo 10 1/4				

LONDON FOEX											
Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put
100	55	70	35	52	100	55	70	35	100	55	70
200	55	70	35	52	200	55	70	35	200	55	70
300	55	70	35	52	300	55	70	35	300	55	70
400	55	70	35	52	400	55	70	35	400	55	70
500	55	70	35	52	500	55	70	35	500	55	70
600	55	70	35	52	600	55	70	35	600	55	70
700	55	70	35	52	700	55	70	35	700	55	70
800	55	70	35	52	800	55	70	35	800	55	70
900	55	70	35	52	900	55	70	35	900	55	70
1000	55	70	35	52	1000	55	70	35	1000	55	70

GNL LONDON GRAIN FUTURES											
Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put
100	55	70	35	52	100	55	70	35	100	55	70
200	55	70	35	52	200	55	70	35	200	55	70
300	55	70	35	52	300	55	70	35	300	55	70
400	55	70	35	52	400	55	70	35	400	55	70
500	55	70	35	52	500	55	70	35	500	55	70
600	55	70	35	52	600	55	70	35	600	55	70
700	55	70	35	52	700	55	70	35	700	55	70
800	55	70	35	52	800	55	70	35	800	55	70
900	55	70	35	52	900	55	70	35	900	55	70
1000	55	70	35	52	1000	55	70	35	1000	55	70

WHEAT (cwt)											
Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put
100	55	70	35	52	100	55	70	35	100	55	70
200	55	70	35	52	200	55	70	35	200	55	70
300	55	70	35	52	300	55	70	35	300	55	70
400	55	70	35	52	400	55	70	35	400	55	70
500	55	70	35	52	500	55	70	35	500	55	70
600	55	70	35	52	600	55	70	35	600	55	70
700	55	70	35	52	700	55	70	35	700	55	70
800	55	70	35	52	800	55	70	35	800	55	70
900	55	70	35	52	900	55	70	35	900	55	70
1000	55	70	35	52	1000	55	70	35	1000	55	70

BARLEY (cwt)											
Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put
100	55	70	35	52	100	55	70	35	100	55	70
200	55	70	35	52	200	55	70	35	200	55	70
300	55	70	35	52	300	55	70	35	300	55	70
400	55	70	35	52	400	55	70	35	400	55	70
500	55	70	35	52	500	55	70	35	500	55	70
600	55	70	35	52	600	55	70	35	600	55	70
700	55	70	35	52	700	55	70	35	700	55	70
800	55	70	35	52	800	55	70	35	800	55	70
900	55	70	35	52	900	55	70	35	900	55	70
1000	55	70	35	52	1000	55	70	35	1000	55	70

RICE (cwt)											
Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put
100	55	70	35	52	100	55	70	35	100	55	70
200	55	70	35	52	200	55	70	35	200	55	70
300	55	70	35	52	300	55	70	35	300	55	70
400	55	70	35	52	400	55	70	35	400	55	70
500	55	70	35	52	500	55	70	35	500	55	70
600	55	70	35	52	600	55	70	35	600	55	70
700	55	70	35	52	700	55	70	35	700	55	70
800	55	70	35	52	800	55	70	35	800	55	70
900	55	70	35	52	900	55	70	35	900	55	70
1000	55	70	35	52	1000	55	70	35	1000	55	70

CORN (cwt)											
Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put
100	55	70	35	52	100	55	70	35	100	55	70
200	55	70	35	52	200	55	70	35	200	55	70
300	55	70	35	52	300	55	70	35	300	55	70
400	55	70	35	52	400	55	70	35	400	55	70
500	55	70	35	52	500	55	70	35	500	55	70
600	55	70	35	52	600	55	70	35	600	55	70
700	55	70	35	52	700	55	70	35	700	55	70
800	55	70	35	52	800	55	70	35	800	55	70
900	55	70	35	52	900	55	70	35	900	55	70
1000	55	70	35	52	1000	55	70	35	1000	55	70

SOYBEAN (cwt)											
Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put	Series Apr	Call	Put
100	55	70	35	52	100	55					

[illegible]

Chalice takes olives to Italy

By PHILIP BARRON

Paté for Harrods' hampers: Achilles and Anna Achilleos at their factory

dustries is leading to bigger sales in that sector and the trend has also been reinforced by the trade's introduction of a "Deli-line" (0285-720623), which helps consumers to find the stockists of products that come to their attention. The company's priorities for the next few years are to establish the market in this country and develop further overseas. Eventually, production may be moved to the source of the olives: Greece.

The health check, aimed particularly at helping businesses beset with recession problems, is being conducted by Stoy Hayward, the consultant. Philip Morgan, the director for enterprise at CILNTEC, said: "This is an area of service businesses and small manufacturers and many are in a situation where they have had to scale down operations, perhaps dropping from a staff of 20 to typically four or five. Now they are trying to work out what to do next, such as if they should try to anticipate an economic upturn."

The TEC can help with counselling and specialised advice. CILNTEC is also assessing how best to use money from the enterprise allowance scheme to help young businesses. A telephone service also offers information and advice, including concerning the wider European market.

☐ More details from CILNTEC on 071-324 2424 or at 80 Great Eastern Street, London, EC2A 3DP.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

clear
um is
has
gests
some
nges
ty to
spe-
in a
ex-
re of
port
re-
ster-
rep-
was
000
pre-
low-
as
k of

ns
ke
en
al
ok
k-
op
ic-

n-
s-
ur-
be
er
re
er
le
re
ed
hi

201-1-5574

1
1
-
1
1
-
:
1

FAX 071-481 9313
071-782 7828

FRANCHISES

prepared McCabe Finsante and
Leasing. QB1-390 3020.

0256 768049.

GERMANY 1982: People with
strong business contacts in Ger-
many wanted. For further
details phone 0273 540670 or
fax 0273 559232. Phoenix
House, 28 Harrington Villas,
Preston. BNI 68C

TPM SALES. Sales execs
and consultants required.
phone 0734 422988 or
write details to Sales
Director, TPM, Unit A, Mill
Stanes, Middles TWS1

Eerily quiet electric cars are due soon in Britain, reports Vaughan Freeman

Now that Saab is a General Motors company, there seems

The exterior, completely redesigned for better aerodynamics

On a motorway, the Saab CS is in its element, carrying driver and passengers in great comfort — apart from that rumble.

e, four-cylinder, 16-valve, 2-litre manual gearbox. Anti-lock brakes 0.5 seconds; top speed 118mph; driving (government figure)

most important equipment to be checked and drivers should ensure that all lights work, washer bottles are full (with a little detergent in

was Fiat followed by General Motors (including Vauxhall), Peugeot-Citroën, Ford, Renault and Mercedes-Benz.

Now that Saab is a General Motors company, there seems

FAX 071-481 9313
071-782 7828

CLASSIC CARS

EX MANAGEMENT Ford car
all models. For details phone
only 0630 560066. Fax 0630
560011.

THE GRANADA CENTRE Ltd
low mileages, all models at 10%
discounts. For details phone
only 0630 560066, fax 0630
560011.

to straight line aqua-planing and more than 20% greater resistance to aqua-planing on cornering.

It certainly seems to have

Continental
German engineering
where you need it most on

The grooved central channel that makes Aqua-Contact unique, allows it to disperse water quicker than any conventional high performance tyre.

It works by twin treads feeding excess water to the 'aqua channel', leaving the rest of the tyre to get to grips with the road.

This patented German design gives a 10% greater resistance to straight line aqua-planing and more than 20% greater resistance to aqua-planing on cornering.

It certainly seems to have

impressed the magazine 'World Sports Cars', who say, "the new Continental AquaContact is truly the most innovative and technically convincing tyre design to come to the market since the advent of the steel belted radial."

If you're convinced, telephone 081 547 0105 for a brochure on AquaContact and the Continental range.

Continental

German engineering where you need it most on a car.



Redknapp's side faces big challenge in FA Cup

Twin peaks moves Bournemouth on to a flight of fancy

BY CLIVE WHITE

IT CANNOT have taken much to get Bournemouth's charter, aircraft off the ground late on Wednesday night most of those on board were already on cloud nine after their dramatic FA Cup third round win on penalties against Newcastle United at St James' Park. Lifting them again by tomorrow, however, would take the invention of even Wilbur and Orville Wright.

Harry Redknapp is not complaining, though. It is part of a football manager's lot these days to try to get his team to peak twice in a week, even if Redknapp would have preferred a couple more days at ground level before asking the third division side to raise their game again to combat Ipswich Town in a fourth round tie at Portman Road.

It was after their last visit to Newcastle 23 months ago that Bournemouth began a desperate slide towards the third division as a result of some appalling injuries which still plague them. One win in their last 16 games inevitably led to relegation.

Such a fate may, in the mind of Bill Shankly, have been more serious than life and death, though I doubt whether even someone as football-daff as Redknapp would agree with that, not after cheating death in a car crash in Italy in 1990 which cost the life of his close friend, Brian Tiler, and three Italians.

Four months after fracturing his skull, breaking a leg and several ribs, Redknapp returned to work, against the advice of his doctors. He made a good recovery though and has lost his sense of smell and taste, probably for ever.

"You could put the worst possible smell under his nose and he wouldn't notice it," Sandra, his wife, said. "He's still football crazy, though. After flying back from Newcastle, he sat up until 3.30am watching the video of the game and was still back at work at 10am in the morning."

The penalty shoot-out must have been a sight easier for Redknapp to watch the second time around, even though he said that he was confident that his five penalty taken would not let him down. "They're all good strikers of the ball," he said. "Mind you after the first five we could have been struggling."

The outstanding individual performance unquestionably came from Paul Wood, whose brave, aggressive running would not have been there to inspire Bournemouth but for the generosity of a supporter every bit as chippy as Redknapp. Wood had been on loan from Sheffield United for four months when Bournemouth were informed that £40,000 was required to make the move permanent.

For a club £2.5 million in the red and losing £5,000 a week, United might just have well asked for £400,000. "I thought we would have to let Paul go back to Sheffield, but then Ken Gardner, one of our greatest fans, stepped in and paid the fee out of his own pocket."

Not even money can buy Wood his place at Portman Road. Sadly for Bournemouth, he is suspended. They could have done with him against a team that played "the best football" seen by Tony Pulis, the Bournemouth coach, for a long time. It does not surprise Redknapp.

"John Lyall did a tremendous job at West Ham over the years and I knew he would do so at Ipswich," he said.

The two were together at Upton Park where their careers overlapped as players. Just as Lyall committed himself to West Ham, so Redknapp has done likewise at Bournemouth, where he has been manager for nine years. Coincidentally, West Ham wanted Redknapp to succeed Lyall in 1989, but the move did not materialise and Lou Macari took the job.

Redknapp would be only too happy to displace Lyall on this occasion. Osvaldo Ardiles, the Newcastle manager, reacted to Wednesday's defeat by agreeing a fee of £325,000 with Southampton yesterday for Jon Giddens. Ardiles moved for Giddens, aged 28, who was under his care at Swindon Town, to reinforce a defence which has conceded 54 goals, more than any other team in the League.

Having achieved a clean sweep of the medals in one event the previous evening, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is set fair to accomplish another in the European skating championships tonight.

This time, the target is the ice dance event, where Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko, the world champions until deposed by the now injured Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay, lead the way after the original dance yesterday. They are followed by two other Muscovite couples.

The mandatory rhythm this year is the polka, which is not an ideal medium for expression on ice, as most competitors found. However, both yesterday's winners and their runners-up, Maia Usova and Alexander Zhulin, found means, with their brilliant technique of avoiding the obvious clichés.

Two judges placed Usova and Zhulin first but there were grounds also for justifying the other seven judges. The pairs on Wednesday evening produced a final of error-strewn, unfulfilled potential. Whereas Moscow ruled yesterday's rout, it had been St Petersburg's turn the night before to fill the podium.

The world pairs champions, Natalya Mishkutenok and Artur Dmitriev, successfully defended their European title, for the fourth time overhauling their stable companions, Yelena Bechke and Denis Petrov, after conceding defeat in the original programme.

But this was not the Mishkutenok and Dmitriev of last year. Both skaters, but particularly Dmitriev, have suffered from a flu-like virus and Mishkutenok has acquired two or three unwelcome kilos.

A veil is best drawn over the British performance. Cheryl Peake and Andrew Naylor declined from eighth place to ninth and their successors as British champions, Kathryn Pritchard and Jason Briggs, remained anchored in thirteenth and last.

RESULTS: Pairs: Final: 1, N Mishkutenok and A Dmitriev (CIS), 2, Bechke and P Petrov (CIS), 3, E Bechke and P Petrov (CIS), 4, C Peake and A Naylor, 5, K Pritchard and J Briggs, 6, S Usova and A Zhulin (CIS), 7, M Bechke and E Petrov (CIS), 8, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 9, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 10, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 11, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 12, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 13, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 14, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 15, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 16, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 17, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 18, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 19, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 20, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 21, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 22, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 23, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 24, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 25, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 26, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 27, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 28, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 29, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 30, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 31, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 32, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 33, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 34, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 35, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 36, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 37, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 38, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 39, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 40, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 41, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 42, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 43, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 44, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 45, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 46, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 47, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 48, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 49, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 50, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 51, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 52, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 53, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 54, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 55, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 56, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 57, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 58, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 59, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 60, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 61, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 62, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 63, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 64, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 65, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 66, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 67, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 68, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 69, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 70, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 71, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 72, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 73, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 74, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 75, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 76, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 77, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 78, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 79, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 80, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 81, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 82, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 83, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 84, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 85, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 86, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 87, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 88, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 89, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 90, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 91, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 92, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 93, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 94, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 95, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 96, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 97, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 98, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 99, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 100, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 101, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 102, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 103, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 104, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 105, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 106, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 107, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 108, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 109, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 110, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 111, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 112, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 113, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 114, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 115, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 116, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 117, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 118, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 119, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 120, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 121, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 122, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 123, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 124, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 125, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 126, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 127, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 128, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 129, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 130, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 131, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 132, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 133, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 134, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 135, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 136, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 137, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 138, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 139, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 140, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 141, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 142, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 143, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 144, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 145, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 146, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 147, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 148, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 149, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 150, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 151, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 152, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 153, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 154, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 155, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 156, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 157, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 158, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 159, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 160, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 161, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 162, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 163, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 164, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 165, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 166, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 167, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 168, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 169, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 170, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 171, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 172, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 173, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 174, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 175, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 176, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 177, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 178, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 179, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 180, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 181, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 182, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 183, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 184, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 185, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 186, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 187, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 188, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 189, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 190, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 191, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 192, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 193, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 194, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 195, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 196, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 197, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 198, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 199, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 200, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 201, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 202, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 203, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 204, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 205, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 206, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 207, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 208, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 209, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 210, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 211, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 212, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 213, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 214, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 215, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 216, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 217, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 218, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 219, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 220, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 221, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 222, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 223, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 224, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 225, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 226, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 227, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 228, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 229, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 230, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 231, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 232, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 233, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 234, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 235, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 236, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 237, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 238, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 239, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 240, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 241, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 242, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 243, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 244, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 245, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 246, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 247, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 248, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 249, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 250, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 251, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 252, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 253, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 254, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 255, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 256, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 257, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 258, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 259, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 260, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 261, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 262, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 263, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 264, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 265, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 266, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 267, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 268, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 269, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 270, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 271, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 272, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 273, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 274, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 275, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 276, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 277, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 278, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 279, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 280, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 281, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 282, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 283, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 284, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 285, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 286, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 287, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 288, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 289, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 290, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 291, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 292, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 293, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 294, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 295, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 296, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 297, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 298, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 299, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 300, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 301, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 302, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 303, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 304, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 305, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 306, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 307, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 308, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 309, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 310, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 311, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 312, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 313, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 314, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 315, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 316, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 317, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 318, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 319, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 320, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 321, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 322, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 323, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 324, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 325, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 326, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 327, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 328, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 329, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 330, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 331, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 332, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 333, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 334, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 335, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 336, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 337, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 338, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 339, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 340, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 341, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 342, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 343, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 344, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 345, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 346, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 347, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 348, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 349, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 350, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 351, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 352, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 353, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 354, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 355, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 356, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 357, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 358, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 359, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 360, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 361, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 362, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 363, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 364, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 365, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 366, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 367, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 368, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 369, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 370, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 371, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 372, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 373, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 374, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 375, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 376, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 377, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 378, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 379, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 380, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 381, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 382, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 383, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 384, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 385, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 386, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 387, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 388, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 389, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 390, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 391, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 392, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 393, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 394, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 395, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 396, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 397, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 398, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 399, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 400, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 401, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 402, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 403, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 404, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 405, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 406, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 407, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 408, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 409, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 410, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 411, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 412, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 413, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 414, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 415, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 416, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 417, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 418, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 419, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 420, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 421, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 422, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 423, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 424, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 425, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 426, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 427, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 428, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 429, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 430, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 431, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 432, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 433, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 434, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 435, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 436, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 437, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 438, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 439, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 440, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 441, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 442, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 443, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 444, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 445, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 446, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 447, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 448, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 449, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 450, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 451, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 452, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 453, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 454, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 455, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 456, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 457, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 458, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 459, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 460, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 461, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 462, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 463, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 464, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 465, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 466, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 467, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 468, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 469, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 470, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 471, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 472, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 473, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 474, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 475, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 476, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 477, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 478, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 479, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 480, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 481, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 482, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 483, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 484, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 485, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 486, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 487, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 488, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 489, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 490, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 491, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 492, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 493, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 494, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 495, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 496, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 497, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 498, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 499, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 500, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 501, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 502, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 503, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 504, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 505, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 506, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 507, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 508, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 509, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 510, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 511, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 512, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 513, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 514, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 515, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 516, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 517, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 518, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 519, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 520, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 521, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 522, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 523, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 524, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 525, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 526, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 527, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 528, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 529, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 530, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 531, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 532, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 533, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 534, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 535, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 536, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 537, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 538, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 539, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 540, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 541, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 542, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 543, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 544, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 545, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 546, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 547, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 548, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 549, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 550, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 551, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 552, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 553, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 554, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 555, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 556, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 557, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 558, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 559, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 560, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 561, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 562, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 563, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 564, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 565, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 566, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 567, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 568, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 569, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 570, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 571, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS), 572, S Gusev and E Plavov (CIS),

FRIDAY JANUARY 24 1992

Central defender ruled out for six weeks

Injury to Bruce deals blow to United's hopes

BY STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AS LEEDS United lost Lee Chapman for some six weeks, so Manchester United now expect to be without Steve Bruce for the same amount of time. It would appear that the fortunes of the two clubs at the top of the first division have thus been neatly balanced.

Bruce revealed on Wednesday night that for a couple of months he has been carrying the injury to which he eventually succumbed.

He imagined that he could play his way through the pain barrier and postpone his appointment with a surgeon until the end of the season.



Bruce: playing in pain

Freeze takes early toll on weekend fixtures

FOOTBALL and rugby union face a mounting backlog of fixtures as several of tomorrow's FA Cup fourth-round ties and the majority of the Pilkington Cup programme are in danger of being frozen off (Louise Taylor writes).

Although no FA Cup matches have been postponed, Bristol Rovers said yesterday that with the temperature on their pitch at Twerton Park, Bath, as low as -8°F, there was "very little chance of the tie with Liverpool going ahead". So little that the match has been provisionally rearranged for either February 4 or 5.

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	25	16	7	2	46	19	55
Leeds Utd	25	14	11	1	49	21	53
Liverpool	25	11	11	3	32	22	44
Man City	26	12	9	5	36	28	44
Sheff Wed	26	12	7	7	38	30	43
Aston Villa	26	11	4	11	34	31	37
Arsenal	24	9	8	7	40	29	35

Full recognition occurred during the draw at Notts County on Saturday. Once he had been withdrawn, Bruce accepted that he would have to undergo a hernia operation to repair the damage which had been exacerbated through the heavy demands of the domestic programme.

But when he learned, three hours before kick-off, that Paul Parker had influenza and would be unavailable against Aston Villa, Bruce volunteered to make one more appearance, his 51st in a row.

Though he visibly winced in pain on several occasions, bravely he completed the game. Claiming he has been a rapid healer in the past, Bruce intends to return sooner than scheduled, but Alex Ferguson is prepared to lose his vice-captain for ten fixtures.

That will probably include both legs of the Rumbelows Cup semi-final against either Middlesbrough or Peterborough. Not that United's manager is short of replacements. Unlike Howard Wilkinson, who has no one capable of filling the same role as Chapman, Ferguson can call on a couple of experienced internationals to act as Gary Pallister's partner — either Mal Donaghy, the versatile Northern Irishman, or Parker, one of England's tightest markers.

Both have also played at full back, where the other choices include Clayton Blackmore, Mike Phelan, Lee Martin and even Lee Sharpe, who started his career at Old Trafford there. The absence of Bruce therefore should not be as consequential as that of Chapman, even if it is as extensive.

But United will miss his constructive contribution. With the exception, perhaps, of Mark Wright, of Liverpool and England, no other central defender is as adept at controlling the ball under pressure (in Bruce's case, invariably on the chest) and playing it calmly and deliberately to a colleague in space.

Bryan Robson was another to show signs of discomfort against Villa. In spite of aggravating his calf strain, he refused to be substituted and may be unavailable for the FA Cup fourth-round tie at Southampton on Monday.

Although United's competitive instincts will demand otherwise, defeat at The Dell would conveniently lighten their schedule.

The prospect is conceivable, even though Southampton are anchored to the bottom of the first division. They have competed in 11 cup ties so far this season and lost only once.

Both have also played at full back, where the other choices include Clayton Blackmore, Mike Phelan, Lee Martin and even Lee Sharpe, who started his career at Old Trafford there. The absence of Bruce therefore should not be as consequential as that of Chapman, even if it is as extensive.

But United will miss his constructive contribution. With the exception, perhaps, of Mark Wright, of Liverpool and England, no other central defender is as adept at controlling the ball under pressure (in Bruce's case, invariably on the chest) and playing it calmly and deliberately to a colleague in space.

Bryan Robson was another to show signs of discomfort against Villa. In spite of aggravating his calf strain, he refused to be substituted and may be unavailable for the FA Cup fourth-round tie at Southampton on Monday.

Although United's competitive instincts will demand otherwise, defeat at The Dell would conveniently lighten their schedule.

The prospect is conceivable, even though Southampton are anchored to the bottom of the first division. They have competed in 11 cup ties so far this season and lost only once.

Mansell may race without spare tyre

BY JOHN BLUNSDEN

NIGEL Mansell will return to England next week from his new home in Florida before beginning five days of testing for the Williams team in Portugal. Yesterday, Frank Williams said he was hoping Mansell, for at 80kg (12st 8lb) he was the heaviest of all the Formula One drivers last season.

"I would like to see him shed about five kilos," Williams said. "It's an attainable target and it would make him even quicker, fitter and, if you like, hungrier."

In Mansell and Riccardo Patrese, Williams believes he has the strongest driving partnership in Formula One.

Although Mansell will continue to have priority use of the team's spare car, in all other respects they have equal status. The only rule for 1992

is that whoever has the better chance of the championship late in the season must be supported by his team-colleague, whichever way it goes.

For Williams, McLaren remains the biggest obstacle to the championship. "Ron Dennis has my deepest admiration and he thoroughly deserves his four double championships, but they are still beatable," he contended.

He also forecasts increasing opposition from other quarters. "In most respects, Ferrari are extremely well managed and can be a threat," he said. "Their main problem last year was building too conservative a car."

"And don't underestimate the power of Benetton's Ford V6 engine. Martin Brundle was very quick indeed over a full race distance in a recent test."

Rob Saunders, the scrum half who flashed like a meteor across Ireland's rugby skies during 1991, fell to earth yesterday. Saunders, the London Irishman who won ten successive caps last year and an eleventh against Wales last weekend, was one of three players dropped when the team to play England at Twickenham on February 1 was named.

He gives way to his deputy during the World Cup, Fergus Aherne, while Mick Galwey comes into the second row in place of that stalwart of the last decade, Donal Lenihan. The third change is on the wing, where Simon Geoghegan, who missed the Welsh match after a family bereavement, reclaims a place at the expense of Keith Crossan.

The selectors must have been tempted to make even greater change after the disappointment of seeing a 15-6 lead over Wales wither away to a 16-15 defeat. Indeed, Claran Fitzgerald, the Ireland coach, acknowledged as much. "We were weak at half back against Wales, but obviously it would be too big a step to jettison both the half backs," he said.

Thus Ralph Keyes, saviour of a nation when he returned to international rugby so effectively during the World Cup, retains his place at stand-off half and Philip Matthews, whose leadership was called into question against the Welsh, retains the captaincy.

Saunders captained Ireland upon his debut against France less than a year ago, but he surrendered that to Matthews when Ireland toured Namibia during the summer. Now his place has gone too, though he put a brave face on it yesterday. "I knew there were going to be changes after a performance like that and they were bound

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

to look closely at my role," he said. "When things go wrong they must look at the men in the decision-making positions and if you accept a decision-making job, you must accept the consequences when things go badly."

After 52 caps, Lenihan, a British Lion in 1983 and 1989, may not be seen on the international stage again. Aged 32, he has been an

appointment of seeing a 15-6 lead over Wales wither away to a 16-15 defeat. Indeed, Claran Fitzgerald, the Ireland coach, acknowledged as much. "We were weak at half back against Wales, but obviously it would be too big a step to jettison both the half backs," he said.

Thus Ralph Keyes, saviour of a nation when he returned to international rugby so effectively during the World Cup, retains his place at stand-off half and Philip Matthews, whose leadership was called into question against the Welsh, retains the captaincy.

Saunders captained Ireland upon his debut against France less than a year ago, but he surrendered that to Matthews when Ireland toured Namibia during the summer. Now his place has gone too, though he put a brave face on it yesterday. "I knew there were going to be changes after a performance like that and they were bound

to look closely at my role," he said. "When things go wrong they must look at the men in the decision-making positions and if you accept a decision-making job, you must accept the consequences when things go badly."

After 52 caps, Lenihan, a British Lion in 1983 and 1989, may not be seen on the international stage again. Aged 32, he has been an

appointment of seeing a 15-6 lead over Wales wither away to a 16-15 defeat. Indeed, Claran Fitzgerald, the Ireland coach, acknowledged as much. "We were weak at half back against Wales, but obviously it would be too big a step to jettison both the half backs," he said.

Thus Ralph Keyes, saviour of a nation when he returned to international rugby so effectively during the World Cup, retains his place at stand-off half and Philip Matthews, whose leadership was called into question against the Welsh, retains the captaincy.

Saunders captained Ireland upon his debut against France less than a year ago, but he surrendered that to Matthews when Ireland toured Namibia during the summer. Now his place has gone too, though he put a brave face on it yesterday. "I knew there were going to be changes after a performance like that and they were bound

to look closely at my role," he said. "When things go wrong they must look at the men in the decision-making positions and if you accept a decision-making job, you must accept the consequences when things go badly."

After 52 caps, Lenihan, a British Lion in 1983 and 1989, may not be seen on the international stage again. Aged 32, he has been an

Short-term signings are ruled out

BY RICHARD STREETON

DURHAM, Essex, Worcestershire and Yorkshire learned yesterday that they will not be allowed to sign short-term replacements for their Australian players if they are selected for a Test tour to Sri Lanka next August and September.

The Test and County Cricket Board's registration committee has rejected requests for special dispensation, be granted if Dean Jones, Mark Waugh, Tom Moody and Craig McDermott have to miss the final six weeks of the season.

By coincidence, several other counties will be without their overseas players at the other end of the summer if the proposed short tour by South Africa to West Indies takes place in April.

Allan Donald, Warwickshire's South African fast bowler, and several West Indians, including Desmond Haynes (Middlesex), Malcolm Marshall (Hampshire) and Curtly Ambrose (Northamptonshire), could all miss the early Benson and Hedges and Sunday league fixtures.

Under TCCB regulations, counties are restricted to one overseas player, who has to be released if selected for his country. The four Australians will have to leave England about August 1, though it

might be later if they are excused pre-tour training.

They will all miss about six county championship fixtures, four or five Sunday league games and, if they qualify, the NatWest Trophy semi-final and final.

Mike Gear, the Durham chief executive, epitomised a philosophical reaction from all four counties when he said: "It is disappointing, but the rules exist for the best. With international tours on the increase, this problem might often arise."

The TCCB has always been against short-term signings. Dennis Silk, the registration committee chairman, said that in a split-tour summer they could be inundated with requests for short-term signings and injuries could also lead to them.

"The whole thrust of our thinking, when possible, is to get more English players into our cricket," he said. "Counties can always blood a promising player who normally is kept out of the side."

Phil Robinson, the Yorkshire batsman who declined to sign a contract offered by the county, failed in a request to the committee to be reclassified as a "non-contest" registration.

Waugh's struggle, 34

Yorkshire reject Boycott honour

BY MARTIN SEABY

YORKSHIRE have refused to make Geoff Boycott their former opening batsman, an honorary life member alongside other luminaries such as Brian Close, Fred Trueman, Willie Watson, Vic Wilson, Ellis Robinson and Bob Appleyard.

Yesterday, Appleyard, a committee member for Bradford, said: "It took me 30 years to be given the honour, so there's plenty of time for Geoff. I would like to see him taking a more active role by accepting the offer to serve on the cricket committee which was made two years ago and remains open."

Boycott did not endear

himself to a large number of Yorkshire's committee with some scathing remarks in a book last year. His comments clearly still rankle.

One member said yesterday: "Geoff is unlikely to take kindly to what he will see as a snub and is even less likely to serve on the cricket committee."

Yorkshire hope there will not be a serious upheaval, with membership and sponsorship enjoying a dramatic increase on the back of the county's first overseas signing, Craig McDermott, the Australian fast bowler.

Adelaide Test, page 34

Fuller Figure Styles

In Sizes 12-40

The New Andre de Brett Spring/Summer collection is specially designed to flatter the fuller figure.

The new catalogue is filled with classic, figure-flattering styles and comfortable fittings.

A fine selection of quality fabrics and beautiful patterns at superb value prices.

You may try on at home with complete confidence in our unconditional money-back guarantee. Personal accounts are available for your convenience.

ANDRE DE BRETT

FREE Please send my FREE catalogue to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Counties: _____ P. Code: _____

ANDRE DE BRETT

FREEPOST Southampton, HANTS SO9 5SR

Stemmle uses courage to conquer the fears

BY DAVID POWELL

IN THE super league of courage, the names stand out: Niki Lauda, Barry Sheene, Bob Champion. Who next? Brian Stemmle has just won promotion.

Three years ago, Stemmle lay unconscious for five days in an Innsbruck hospital, his high-speed fall in a World Cup downhill ski race depositing him at death's door. He had broken his pelvis and his extensive internal injuries threatened his life. He was in hospital for three months.

Tomorrow, Stemmle will look down the Lauberhorn mountain in Wengen, Switzerland, and see the piste on which Gernot Reinstadler, an Austrian, aged 20, crashed and died a year ago. Then he will ski down it as fast as he can, hopefully to the bottom. In a World Cup race, Stemmle is back, not simply racing but racing to win. He is remarkably Canada's best hope for a medal in the Olympic downhill a fortnight on Sunday.

Reinstadler's accident was so similar to mine, it's real frightening; when you are inspecting that part of the course it runs through your mind," Stemmle said yesterday. Not that he will be frightened away. He has

come too far. In Garmisch-Partenkirchen a fortnight ago, he was fourth in a World Cup downhill, only one place lower than his best before the accident.

Like Reinstadler, Stemmle lost his line and became a victim of the safety net. He accuses the Kitzbühel ski club, which staged the race on its Hahnenkamm mountain, of failing to take reasonable safety measures and is suing. The pain when he regained consciousness was, he said, "unbearable".

It was five months before he walked and a year before it occurred to him that, yes, he did want to ski again.

"His parents did not want him to come back, the coaches said there was no way he could come back. Everybody said 'no'; now every day I look at him and I cannot believe it," Germain Barrette, Canada's head coach for downhill, said.

According to Barrette, Stemmle is a better skier for his accident. "Our training has been much more technical than it was before," Barrette said. "We [the Canadians] were the best jumpers on the fast sections but the big problems were technical. The Olympic piste at Val d'Isère favours the technical skiers. From

Barrette, a prediction for Stemmle: "top five". Stemmle, aged 25, cannot be sure that he will not repeat his near-fatal error. He has watched the video but cannot identify the mistake. Does he not know what went wrong? "Not really," but it does not worry me. I do not take as many risks as I did in training and I am more methodical in my approach."

After winning this season's World Cup downhill in Val d'Isère, A.J. Kitt said that "life on the edge" was the only way to live. The same goes for Stemmle. "I love to do all sorts of crazy things," he said. "It was never really

my goal to come back and ski just to make it down." If skiing does not claim him, bungy jumping might.

Stemmle's comeback required Lauda-like steel. "First time for the starting gate I was nervous and somewhat unsure," he said, "but my coach said: 'This is what you do best; go down and do it.' And he could get better, perhaps at the Olympics."

"Hopefully, everything will work out — it would be great to get a medal," he said. It would look good pinned next to his badge of courage.
